



Kentucky Paternity Acknowledgment Program

What a Difference a Dad Makes!

www.ky-paternity.com

1-888-675-7425

What is the Kentucky Paternity Acknowledgment Program?

KYPAP is designed to help unmarried parents establish paternity for their children. Establishing paternity is an important, yet simple process by which the parents sign a document recognizing the biological father also as the legal father. In order for the father's name to be included on the birth certificate, a Paternity Acknowledgment Affidavit must be completed. The Paternity Acknowledgment Program provides an easy process that allows parents to acknowledge paternity without going to court.

What are the benefits for establishing paternity?

Establishing paternity benefits the child and parents in many ways:

- Child may qualify for benefits, such as the father's health insurance, social security or inheritance rights.
- Both parents' names will be listed on the child's birth certificate.
- Father is more likely to establish an emotional bond with child.
- Knowledge of both parent's medical histories.
- Both parents share the responsibility and rewards of parenthood.
- Child receives financial support from both parents.

Why DAD is so important...

- A child raised by an involved father figure is more likely to be an active, healthy and strong baby, toddler, pre-schooler and school-aged child.
- Most babies with involved father figures do better than normal on developmental tests.
- Boys raised with involved, nurturing fathers are at much less risk of being violent and showing other anti-social behavior.
- Girls raised with involved dads tend to do better in math.
- Children with dads present are less likely to become criminals, especially violent ones.
- Both boys and girls raised with involved father figures show a greater center of control, the ability to be independent, have self-control and be a leader. They are more successful in life.

Unmarried Parents Establish a Legal Father for your Child By Acknowledging Paternity

What is Paternity Acknowledgment?

When couples are not married, they can give their baby any last name they choose. However, in order to have the FATHER of the baby listed on the Birth Certificate and to make him a LEGAL FATHER, a Declaration of Paternity needs to be completed and signed by Both Parents in front of a Notary. There is no DNA testing involved.

We know that he is the father, why should we establish paternity?

Paternity Acknowledgment is **not** a DNA test or a question of who the father is. It is a legal document that makes the father a LEGAL father and allows the Vital Statistics to enter his information on the legal birth certificate.

If we sign the Acknowledgment of Paternity, can we still do a DNA test?

Yes, however, it is highly recommended that if there is any question of who the father is, that a DNA test be done prior to signing the paternity acknowledgment form. This is a legal binding document.

I am a mother who is legally married and my husband is not the father of my baby. Can we sign the paternity form?

Yes, as long as you have been separated from your husband for at least 10 months prior to the birth of your child. If not separated 10 months, you can establish paternity by going to the health department and contacting Vital Statistics to help. The husband will deny paternity and the biological father can declare paternity with a 3way paternity form.

One or both parents are under the age of 18; can we sign the paternity acknowledgment?

In the state of Kentucky, minors can not establish paternity in the hospital, **only** at the health department, office of vital statistics in Frankfort or at the child support office in their county.

Will I have to pay Child Support if I establish paternity?

Establishing paternity does not mean the father will automatically be forced to pay court ordered child support nor does it affect eligibility for public assistance. Ideally parents will figure out the right amount of support and come to an agreement.