

If you have any questions about the information in this pamphlet or about paternity and support services, contact your local Department of Workforce Services Employment Center or the Office of Recovery Services at (801) 536-8500. You may call toll free in Utah by dialing 1-800-662-8525, or toll free out of state, by dialing 1-800-257-9156.

The mission of the Utah Department of Workforce Services is to provide quality, accessible, and comprehensive employment-related and supportive services responsive to the needs of employers, job seekers, and the community.

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Utah's Job Connection
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Establishing Paternity

*Establishing
paternity
will greatly
benefit your
child!*



What is Paternity?

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Paternity means fatherhood. If parents are married, the husband is considered to be the father of children born during the marriage. If parents are not married, it is important that paternity be legally established.

How is Paternity Established?

Paternity is established in one of two ways:

1. The mother and alleged father agree he is the biological father of the child and sign an affidavit for voluntary declaration of paternity by parents. The mother and alleged father can sign the affidavit at the hospital when the child is born or anytime after the birth at a local Department of Health office or at the Office of Vital Records and Statistics
2. If an affidavit for voluntary declaration of paternity is not signed, paternity must be established through a judicial or administrative action. Genetic testing may be requested as part of any paternity action.

Why is it Important to Establish Paternity?

•*Money:* Children supported by only one parent often live in

poverty. In order to receive child support for your child, paternity must be legally established.

•*Medical:* Your child needs to know if he or she has inherited any special health problems. Also, it might be possible to obtain medical insurance for your child through the father's insurance provider.

•*Identity:* It's important for children to establish a positive relationship with both their mother and father.

•*Benefits:* If the father dies and paternity has been established, your child may qualify for a number of benefits, including Social Security, pensions, inheritance rights, veterans benefits and life insurance.

What Happens When Paternity is Established?

The Office of Recovery Services (ORS) will obtain an order for child and medical support.

What Happens After Paternity is Established?

If you are receiving cash assistance and/or Medicaid, ORS will collect child support and require that the absent parent keep health insurance for your child. If you are

receiving Medicaid assistance only, you may request that ORS not collect child support after paternity is established.

Do I Have to Cooperate?

Your cooperation in establishing paternity may or may not be required depending on the type of public assistance you request.

Cooperation

Most medical assistance programs require that the parent cooperate in obtaining a paternity order so that ORS may collect medical support. Cooperation may not be required if there is a court order or proof of a pending judicial action that documents risk.

All adults who receive cash assistance, child care assistance and/or Medicaid must cooperate with ORS if they have a dependent child, unless good cause is claimed and approved by the Department of Workforce Services.

By law, ORS and the State Attorney General's Office cannot represent parents with custody, visitation or other non-support issues.