



# Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity

If you are not married to the father of your child, but you want him listed as the legal father on your child's birth certificate, here is the information you will need to know:

- Both parents must sign a document called an Acknowledgment of Paternity (AOP). When the Acknowledgment of Paternity is filed with the Vital Statistics Section (VSS), the biological father becomes the legal father.
- Identification must be provided to complete an AOP.
- The Acknowledgment of Paternity can be completed:
  - before your baby is born,
  - when your baby is born, or
  - anytime afterwards.
- To sign the AOP before your baby's birth, both you and the biological father must go to a certified entity listed below. When the AOP is completed, the certified entity will submit the AOP to VSS. Please bring your copy of the AOP to the hospital when you have your baby.
- If an AOP was not completed when the baby was born, both parents may go at any time afterwards to a certified entity listed below to complete an AOP.
- The Acknowledgment of Paternity can be signed and completed at:
  - The Office of the Attorney General - Child Support Division
  - Local Registrar (County Clerk's Office)
  - Local Vital Statistics Office
- To find a certified entity near you, you may call (866) 255-2006.

## Important Information

If you are married to a man other than the father of the child, your husband must complete the Denial of Paternity section on the Acknowledgment of Paternity form.

If you were divorced from a man within 300 days before your child's birth, and a court order does not exclude your ex-husband as the father of the child, your ex-husband must sign the Denial of Paternity.

If the Denial of Paternity is needed and not completed, you cannot proceed with the AOP. You may contact a child support office or private attorney for assistance.

Form 1608  
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