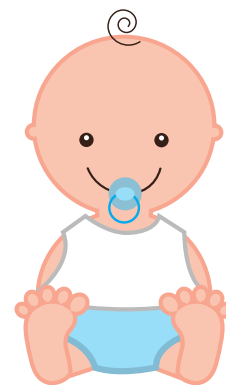


Establishing Parentage FAQ's



What does it mean to establish paternity/parentage?

Paternity/parentage is the legal establishment of a parent/child Relationship. When you establish paternity/parentage, you establish your right to motion the court for custody, parenting time and/or child support. A legal parent is responsible for providing emotional, physical and financial support.

Will both parents' names go on my child's birth certificate after paternity/parentage is established?

Yes, parents' names, dates, and places of birth will go on the child's birth certificate. It is important to both you and the child that the information is correct and complete on this birth record.

My child's father/mother wants to acknowledge paternity/parentage. Is there an easy way for him/her to do this?

Unwed parents may sign an Acknowledgment of Parentage. This form is available at the hospital after the birth of your child, at any office of Child Support Services, and through your local vital records office. An affidavit of paternity/parentage may also be signed at your local county child support office.

What should I do if I do not know who is the father/mother?

Either parent can request genetic testing if paternity/parentage has not already been established or determined. If either parent is unsure, a paternity test should be completed to determine if the alleged father is the biological father of the child. Certain legal relationships, like a civil union or domestic partnership may require additional evidence.

Who pays for genetic testing and how long does it take to get results?

Either parent may set up an appointment with a certified DNA testing laboratory. Parents may be required to reimburse child support services for the genetic testing expense. Results are typically available 7-10 business days after collecting the samples from all persons, but can take longer. Only genetic testing results for a legal proceeding may be used for child support services; test results obtained privately cannot be used.



What happens if he is not the father? What happens if he is the father?

If the alleged parent is determined to be the legal/biological parent of the child, CSS will establish an order of financial responsibility for the parent to support the child. If the alleged parent is not determined to be the legal parent, CSS will continue to work with the custodial party to determine who is the legal parent of the child.

