

## NOT SURE?

If parents don't agree on parentage, genetic testing may be requested.

If you need a test to establish parentage, contact an accredited laboratory.

Over-the-counter tests cannot be used as evidence in court.

If you need both parentage and child support established, contact your local child support office.

Questions about parentage?  
Please call **303-866-6430**

## SAFETY CONCERNS?

Establishing parentage may cause safety concerns for domestic abuse survivors and their children. If you have any safety concerns for yourself or your children, please contact the **National Domestic Violence Hotline** for assistance.

Call **1-800-799-7233**  
or visit [thehotline.org](https://thehotline.org)

Highly trained advocates are available 24/7/365 to talk confidentially with anyone experiencing domestic violence, seeking resources or information, or questioning unhealthy aspects of their relationship.

## CONTACT US



The Department of Human Services,  
Division of Child Support Services  
can assist with establishing parentage  
and child support matters.

Call **303-866-6430**  
or  
visit our website at:  
[www.childsupport.state.co.us](http://www.childsupport.state.co.us)



**COLORADO**  
Child Support Services  
Department of Human Services



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Child Support Services  
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## PARENTAGE

WHAT EVERY PARENT  
NEEDS TO KNOW

## WHY SHOULD I ESTABLISH PARENTAGE?

Establishing parentage can make a difference in your child's life. Determining the legal parents of a child provides the child and parents certain benefits including:

**IDENTITY:** Children can benefit from having a relationship with both of their parents. Both parents will be listed on the birth certificate.

**MEDICAL:** Children benefit by knowing if they have inherited any health conditions.

**HEALTH INSURANCE:** Children benefit by having medical insurance coverage which might be possible to obtain through an employer, union, or military branch of either parent.

**CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES:** Children benefit by being supported financially by both parents. Child support services are available at **NO FEE** through the local child support agency in each county. To find your local Child Support Services office, visit:  
[www.childsupport.state.co.us](http://www.childsupport.state.co.us).

These services include locating either of the child's parents, establishing parentage, obtaining a support order and collecting child support payments. Either parent may also hire a private attorney or licensed legal paraprofessional. Child Support Services does not provide legal advice.

**SURVIVOR'S BENEFITS:** Children may have the right to certain benefits when a parent dies, such as: Social Security, pensions, inheritance rights, veteran's benefits and life insurance.

## HOW DO I ESTABLISH PARENTAGE?

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PARENTAGE:

Parentage can be established by an **Acknowledgement of Parentage (AOP)** form. This document may be completed by unmarried parents at the hospital after the birth of the child or filed with the office of Vital Records. If signed by both parents, it established a legal parent/child relationship for all purposes upon filing.

### COURT ORDER:

Parentage may also be determined by a court. For alleged parents, it is very important to actively participate in this process. If an alleged parent does not appear in court when a hearing is set, the court can enter a default order for parentage and support.

### MARRIAGE OR REGISTERED CIVIL UNION:

In the State of Colorado, if parents are married when a child is born, this creates a "presumption of parentage." Parentage may also be presumed by the court of law when parents have attempted to marry, or have been divorced within 300 days of a child's birth.

## WHEN CAN PARENTAGE BE ESTABLISHED?

Colorado law allows a parentage action to be started any time before the child reaches the age of 18 and in some circumstances up to the age of 21.

## CAN PARENTAGE BE ESTABLISHED IF THE OTHER PARENT LIVES IN A DIFFERENT STATE?

**Yes, but it may take more time.** These services are available through the local child support agency in each county in Colorado.

## DOES ESTABLISHING PARENTAGE ALSO ESTABLISH PARENTING TIME?

**No, parenting time can be arranged informally between parents or set by the court.** If there is a disagreement, the court will have to settle the matter. For Court assistance, visit **Colorado Judicial Self Help Resources** at:

[www.coloradojudicial.gov/self-help-resources](http://www.coloradojudicial.gov/self-help-resources)

