

Why is it important for my child to have a legal father?

Establishing paternity may allow your child to receive many benefits, including legal, social, and psychological:

- child support
- Social Security
- disability insurance
- inheritance
- pensions
- medical information
- visitation rights
- sense of identity
- psychological bonds between father and child
- may have better emotional performance
- may have fewer behavior problems

Questions?

Paternity Affidavit Program

pataff@iastate.edu

[childwelfareproject.hs.iastate.edu/
paternity-affidavit-program/](http://childwelfareproject.hs.iastate.edu/paternity-affidavit-program/)

515-294-7343

This information is provided under the partnership between Iowa State University's Child Welfare and Research Training Project and the Iowa Department of Human Services Child Support Recovery Unit.

Unmarried Parents:



What you need to know about legal fathers

VPA
Voluntary Paternity Affidavit



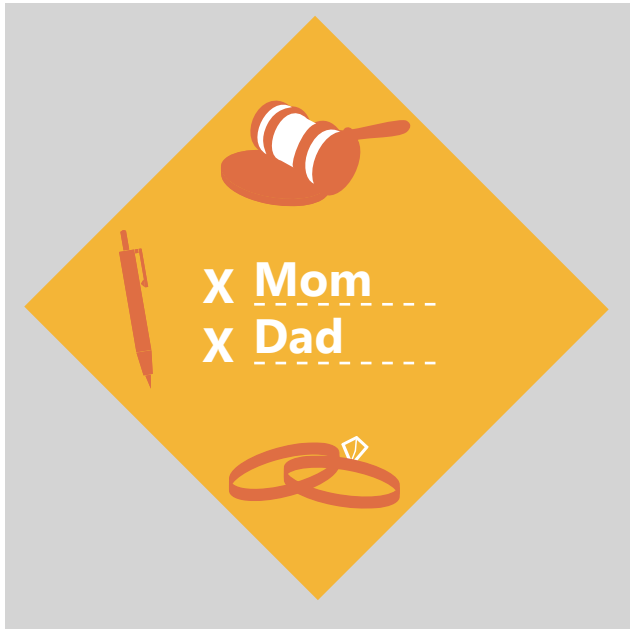
Who can be listed on the birth certificate?

In addition to your child's mother, the legal father can be listed.

How can I establish my child's legal father?

1. If a mother is married at some time during the pregnancy or at birth.
2. If a court enters an order naming the father.
3. If both parents fill out and sign the paternity affidavit form.

One of these criteria must be met for your child's father to be on the birth certificate.



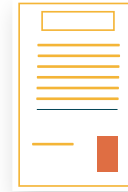
What is a paternity affidavit?

It's a free and easy legal document that both parents complete so their child can have a legal father.

This is a FREE document!

Where can I get one?

The paternity affidavit can be completed anywhere, but it must be signed in the presence of a notary public.



You can get a paternity affidavit at:

- hospital at time of birth
- local Child Support Recovery Unit office www.childsupport.ia.gov
- local County Recorder office bit.ly/iarecorders

Send to Bureau of Health Statistics (with copies of IDs)

Iowa Dept. of Public Health
Bureau of Health Statistics
Lucas Office Building
321 East 12th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319



What do I need to complete the paternity affidavit?

Both parents need to bring:

One current U.S. government-issued ID:

- driver's license
- state photo ID
- United States passport/visa
- military ID
- permanent residence card
- employment authorization card
- current school photo ID

— OR —

Two to three of the following:
(names and current addresses must match)

- income tax return
- court documents
- expired driver's license plus one other document in the same name
- criminal record
- hospital bill
- Medicaid/Medicare card
- rent or mortgage receipt
- car title
- insurance policy
- medical card
- find more here, including international documents: bit.ly/paternityidlist

For more information, visit

bit.ly/aboutvpa

VPA
Voluntary Paternity Affidavit