



Why is Establishing Paternity So Important?

Completing the Acknowledgment of Paternity form will add a biological father to the birth record making the child eligible for benefits from BOTH parents. It also may ensure a child's eligibility for public and private benefits through the father.

Some of the benefits are:

- Insurance
 - The child may be able to be put on the father's health insurance.
- Taxes
 - Both parents may claim the child on their taxes.
- Travel
 - There are instances where a mother must remain in the hospital. Having the father put on the record allows the father to take the child home on his own.
 - The father may travel with the child out of state or out of the country without the mother being present.
- Child may claim VA benefits
- Social Security
- Inheritances

Having a father on the birth record may ensure that they have legal paternal rights to their child. It may also make future parenting agreements such as custody and child support less complicated.

