

Birth certificate: Adding father's name

When parents are not legally married at the time of birth, additional legal steps must be taken to list the father on the birth certificate to establish paternity.

Reasons to add the father's name to the birth certificate:

- Your child may need to trace special health problems or identify relatives with compatible blood or tissue types if a serious medical condition develops.
- Your child may become eligible for benefits from both parents — Social Security, health and life insurance benefits, inheritance rights, veteran's and other benefits. Usually paternity must be established before a child can receive these benefits from a father.
- Financial support from both parents is required by law. Children supported by only one parent may not have enough money for their needs.

How can the mother add the father's name to the birth certificate while the mother is in the hospital?

As long as the mother was not married at any time during her pregnancy (300 days prior to birth), both parents can sign a "Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity" (Form 45-31).

Hospital staff can provide both the form and information about legal rights and responsibilities.

What if the father cannot sign the form while the mother is at the hospital?

Both parents will need to complete a "Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity Affidavit" (Form 45-21), and sign it before a notary public. Send the signed form to

the State of Oregon Vital Records office. There is a fee to add the father's name to the birth certificate.

What if the mother was married during the pregnancy (300 days prior to the birth)?

If the mother was married to a man who is not the father of her child at any time 300 days prior to the birth of the child, then there is a different legal process to add the father's name to the birth certificate. The mother must provide a certified court order (such as a divorce decree or an order of non-paternity) stating that the man who was her husband during the pregnancy is not the father of the child. A local Division of Child Support office or family law attorney may be able to assist you and explain what to do.

For more information

Center for Health Statistics

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/ChangeVitalRecords/Pages/paternityfaqs.aspx>

Oregon Division of Child Support

www.dcs.state.or.us
www.oregonchildsupport.gov/offices

Forms available from **Oregon Vital Records**, 971-673-1155