



*Remember:*

*Every child deserves the love and support of both parents!*

*The earlier paternity is established, the more secure your child's future will be!*

*Signing the Acknowledgement of Paternity is voluntary.*

*Always keep copies of documents you sign.*



New Mexico  
Health Care Authority Child  
Support Services Division  
Consolidated Customer Service  
Center 1-800-283-4465  
[www.hca.nm.gov](http://www.hca.nm.gov)



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Department of Health:  
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HEALTH CARE  
AUTHORITY

Child Support Services Division

## Acknowledgement of Paternity:

*What parents need to know about  
establishing paternity*



## What does it mean to “Establish Paternity?”

Completion of the Acknowledgement of Paternity form establishes paternity which creates legal rights and responsibilities between a father and his child.

If the parents of a child are not married at the time a child is born, paternity must be established before the father’s name can be included on the birth certificate.



## When a child’s paternity is established it creates:

**A Sense of Identity:** Your child has the sense of belonging that comes from knowing both parents.



**Better Medical Care:** It will assist your child with access to their family’s medical history. Family health information can help doctors diagnose illnesses and provide the best treatment.

**Financial Security:** Your child may be eligible for benefits from the Social Security Administration, Veterans’ Administration, or other government agencies, as well as life insurance and inheritance rights.

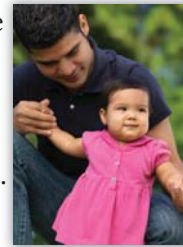


## How do you complete an Acknowledgement of Paternity form?

The most convenient time to complete the Acknowledgement of Paternity form is at the hospital after the baby is born, if both parents are present. The hospital will assist the parents in completing the form and provide a notary.

If you did not complete the Acknowledgement of Paternity form at the hospital, you can complete the Acknowledgement of Paternity at any Child Support Services Division (CSSD) field office. You may call 1(800)283-4465 or visit [www.hsd.state.nm.us](http://www.hsd.state.nm.us) for a location nearest to you.

Always make sure the information on the Acknowledgement of Paternity is correct before signing the form. In order for a notary to verify the identity of the parties signing the document, both parents are required to show a picture ID and be in the presence of the notary when signing the form. Both hospital staff and CSSD field offices provide notary services free of charge.



Once the Acknowledgement of Paternity form is completed and signed in front of a notary, the hospital will use this information to complete the child’s birth registration. The completed Acknowledgement of Paternity form and the child’s birth registration are submitted to the New Mexico Department of Health’s Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics by the hospital. If you complete an Acknowledgement of Paternity at a CSSD field office, the field office will assist you with submitting the document. Once the Acknowledgement of Paternity is approved by the New Mexico Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics, legal paternity is established.

## What if the parent(s) change their minds after completing the Acknowledgement of Paternity?



A party who wants the Acknowledgement of Paternity rescinded must file for a proceeding in court.

## The Acknowledgement of Paternity form was returned. What should I do now?

Your local CSSD field office can assist you if the Acknowledgement of Paternity form was returned to you for correction. You may call 1(800)283-4465 or visit [www.hsd.state.nm.us](http://www.hsd.state.nm.us) for a CSSD location nearest to you.

## Can a parent under the age of 18 sign the Acknowledgement of Paternity?

Yes. Mothers and fathers under the age of 18 may complete an Acknowledgement of Paternity without their parents’ consent.

## What if the father of the child is a man other than the mother’s husband?



In New Mexico, if the mother is married at the time of the birth or gives birth within three hundred (300) days after the marriage is terminated by annulment, divorce or decree of separation, the husband is considered by law to be the father. A Denial of Paternity can be filed with the Bureau of Vital Record and Health Statistics by the husband if he does not wish to be named as the father.