

## BENEFITS OF ESTABLISHING PATERNITY

**Health:** Your child needs to know if he or she has inherited any health problems. This question can be answered only if the medical history of both parents is available. Also, it's often possible to obtain medical insurance for the child through the father's employer, union or military service.

**Financial Benefits:** Your child has the right to benefits from both parents. These could include Social Security benefits, inheritance rights, Native corporation dividends, veterans benefits and other types of assistance. Unless you have legally established paternity, your child may not be able to claim these benefits.

**Security:** The uncertainty of not knowing their father can make growing up even harder for many children.

**Support:** Both parents are required by law to support their child

## CONTACTS...

For information about establishing paternity or child support contact the Alaska Child Support Services Division:

### MAIN OFFICE

550 W. Seventh Ave., Suite 310  
Anchorage, AK 99501-6699  
www.childsupport.alaska.gov  
(907) 269-6900 in the Anchorage calling area  
(800) 478-3300 toll free in Alaska  
(907) 269-6894 TTD  
(800) 370-6894 TTD toll free in Alaska  
(907) 787-3220 FAX

### FAIRBANKS

675 Seventh Ave., Station J2  
Fairbanks, AK 99701-4531  
(907) 451-2830  
(907) 787-3220 FAX

### SOUTHEAST

410 Willoughby Ave., Suite 107  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 465-5887  
(907) 787-3220 FAX

### MATSU

845 W. Commercial Drive  
Wasilla, AK 99654-6937  
(907) 357-3550  
(907) 787-3220 FAX

For information about placing the father's name on Alaska birth certificates:

**Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics**  
P.O. Box 110675  
Juneau, AK 99811-0675  
(907) 465-3392



## FATHERHOOD CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Establishing legal fatherhood for unmarried parents is important so that your child can enjoy the same rights and privileges available to all children.

It's easy to establish legal fatherhood and it can make a big difference in your child's emotional and financial future.

**FOR FUN AND GAMES, FOR A DAY AT THE BEACH, FOR FIRST STEPS, FOR PICNICS, FOR WISDOM, FOR LIFE.**



## **ESTABLISHING FATHERHOOD IS EASY**

In order to ensure that all children receive the same rights and privileges, paternity should be established for children whose mothers were not married during pregnancy or at the time of their child's conception or birth.

The father may establish paternity simply by signing an affidavit at the child's birth, acknowledging he is the father of the child. Forms for the mother and father to sign are available at hospitals and birthing centers, and signing the form at the child's birth means the father's name will be on the birth certificate. This guarantees the child will receive all the benefits of legal paternity.

If the mother was married when the baby was conceived or born, or during pregnancy, state law says her husband is the baby's legal father. If the husband is not the father, he must take legal action if he wants to revoke the paternity. This can be done through the courts or child support agency, or by signing a three-party affidavit with the mother, her husband and the biological father.

## **PATERNITY CAN BE ESTABLISHED AFTER BIRTH**

You can establish paternity at any time in your child's life. Paternity acknowledgement forms are available from the Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics or the Alaska Child Support Services Division. (Address information is on back page of this booklet.)

Your child will benefit from all the rights and privileges available to other children, regardless of when the father establishes paternity.

If the father declines to acknowledge paternity, the courts or the child support agency can take steps to determine paternity. The mother or legal guardian also can request the service. If the mother or legal guardian applies for public assistance, the child support agency will attempt to establish paternity as required by law.

Genetic testing will be used to help determine paternity. The child support agency or the courts will schedule the mother, the child and the likely father for an appointment to collect a DNA sample

using a swab, similar to a Q-Tip. A technician will use the swab to pick up cells inside the mouth. Sometimes, when Alaska is testing for other states, we're required to draw blood for testing.

If the testing is part of a child support paternity establishment, the father must pay the cost. If testing shows the man is not the father, the state will pay the cost.

We can establish paternity if the father is in another state, but it may take more time. Every state has an agreement that covers establishing paternity and collecting child support from parents in other states.

## **ANYONE CAN ASK TO DETERMINE PATERNITY**

The child's father, mother or legal guardian can apply to the child support agency for establishment of paternity and a support order for a child born out of wedlock.

If the mother is not sure of the father's identity, the Child Support Services Division can help determine what action is necessary to establish paternity.