

FATHERHOOD MAKES A DIFFERENCE: Stay Involved

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

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

BENEFITS OF ESTABLISHING PARENTAGE

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 is often possible to obtain health 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 parentage, 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.

DID YOU KNOW?

Children with involved, caring fathers have better educational outcomes.

ESTABLISHING FATHERHOOD IS EASY

In order to ensure that all children receive the same rights and privileges, parentage 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 parentage 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 parentage.

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 parentage. 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.

PARENTAGE CAN BE ESTABLISHED AFTER BIRTH

You can establish parentage at any time in your child's life. Parentage acknowledgement forms are available from the Alaska Health Analytics and Vital Records Office or the Alaska Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED).

Alaska Health Analytics and Vital Records Office
PO Box 110675
Juneau, AK 99811-0675
(907) 465-3391

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

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

Genetic testing will be used to help determine parentage. CSED 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.

If the testing is part of a child support parentage 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 parentage if the father is in another state, but it may take more time. Every state has an agreement that covers establishing parentage and collecting child support from parents in other states.



Genetic Testing Information:
You have an option to apply for parentage establishment only. Once case is set up, it will then be forwarded to the Parentage section who will contact the client to schedule genetic testing.

WHO CAN ASK TO DETERMINE PARENTAGE?

The child's father, mother or legal custodian can apply to CSED for establishment of parentage and a support order for a child born out of wedlock.

If the mother is not sure of the father's identity, CSED can help determine what action is necessary to establish parentage.

An alleged father cannot ask to determine parentage for a child when there is a legal husband listed as the father on the child's birth certificate. In these instances, the alleged father will need to motion the court to determine parentage.

The Numbers

According to 2011 U.S. Census Bureau data, over 24 million children live apart from their biological fathers. That is 1 out of every 3 children (33%) in America. Nearly 2 in 3 African American children (64%) live in father-absent homes. One in three Hispanic children (34%), and 1 in 4 white children (25%) live in father-absent homes.

In 1960, only 11% of children lived in father-absent homes. The rate has tripled since then.

DID YOU KNOW?

Although men are most frequently the providers of child support, 15 percent of all people who pay child support are women.

The Consequences

Children who live absent from their biological fathers are, on average, at least two to three times more likely than their peers who live with their married, biological (or adoptive) parents, to:

Be **poor** • Use **drugs** • Experience **educational problems** • Experience **health problems** • Experience **emotional problems** • Experience **behavioral problems** • Become **victims** of child abuse • Engage in **criminal behavior**

See more at: <https://www.fatherhood.org/>

CSED Checklist:

- **Always read and respond** to mail from CSED.
- **Provide complete information** for faster processing and accurate orders.
- **Maintain contact.** A caseworker can give you updates on actions taken on your case.
- **Keep good records** of your dealings with CSED. Keep copies of your paystubs and tax records.
- **Notify CSED of any changes** to your address, new job, income, child support order, custody order by the court, or when a child turns 18.
- **Check our website** for more information, forms, and answers to questions.



DID YOU KNOW?

Child support and visitation rights are two distinct and different legal matters. (You can't legally stop paying child support just because the other parent makes it hard for you or even prevents you from seeing your child.)

Let us introduce ourselves!

We are the Alaska Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED) and are responsible for establishing and enforcing child support orders to make sure Alaska's children receive financial support from both parents.

We offer the following:

- **Locate parents**
- **Establish parentage**
- **Establish administrative child support orders**
- **Enforce child support orders**
- **Review and modify administrative child support orders**
- **Direct deposit of your child support payments**

Payment Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 100380
Anchorage, AK 99510-0380

Mailing Address:

550 W 7th Ave, Suite 310
Anchorage, AK 99501-6699

Contact us:

Customer Service: (907) 269-6900

FAX: (907) 787-3220

Email: dor.csed.customerservice.anchorage@alaska.gov

Or simply send a message on the CSED Client Portal

<https://acsess.childsupport.alaska.gov/clientportal/>



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Alaska Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED)

The Gift of Fatherhood:

Establishing Parentage



FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK OUR
WEBPAGE:

www.childsupport.alaska.gov