

What if parents acknowledge paternity but change their minds later?

If you do change your mind, you have 60 days to rescind the Paternity Acknowledgment Form. However, a court order is required to remove the name of the father from the birth certificate.

For unmarried parents who have not established paternity and who would like to apply for services with the Division of Child Support Services, a paternity test is required once there is an open case. You may apply for services online at childsupport.ga.gov.

Minor parents

An unwed parent under the age of 18 may sign the PA form without parental consent in order for the child to have their father's last name. However, parental consent is recommended.



Contact us

For more information, contact the Georgia Paternity Acknowledgment Program at

1-877-GADHSGO
(1-877-423-4746)

or visit the State Office of Vital Records at
dph.ga.gov/vitalrecords.



**Georgia Department
of Human Services**

Division of Child Support Services



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Paternity Acknowledgment Program



What is paternity acknowledgment and why should I complete a form?

Under Georgia law, an acknowledgment or determination of paternity establishes the biological condition of being a father. However, it does not establish a legal relationship between the father and child that offers custody or visitation rights.

Fathers can now acknowledge their biological relationship with a child by completing a Paternity Acknowledgment (PA) form. The form may be completed at the hospital at the time of the child's birth, later at any Vital Records office, or after paternity is established through paternity testing. The form remains on file with the State Vital Records office.

A signed PA form allows the biological father's name to be automatically added to the child's birth certificate. You can download the form at dph.georgia.gov/vitalrecords.

PATERNITY HELPS FAMILIES

- Paternity gives a child a surname that reflects the child's identity and heritage
- Paternity allows both parents to share the responsibility and rewards of parenthood
- Paternity allows both parents to establish an emotional bond with the child

PATERNITY HELPS CHILDREN FINANCIALLY

- Paternity allows the child to qualify for benefits, such as the father's health insurance or Social Security
- Paternity allows the child to receive financial support from both parents

What are the benefits of establishing paternity?

Identity

It is important for a child to know the identity of his or her father. Research indicates that knowing one's identity is crucial to emotional development. Establishing paternity can help to create emotional, social, and economic ties between a father and his child.

Connection

Children need both parents, and establishing paternity will create a connection to a child's father and mother.

Health

When doctors know the medical history of both parents, it improves the child's ability to receive appropriate medical care. Paternity establishment allows a child to have access to information about medical histories on both sides of his or her family.

Financial

Children have a right to receive financial support from both parents. Establishing paternity will ensure that the child has the right to receive Social Security and military benefits from his or her father.



What are the requirements to acknowledge paternity?

In order for you to acknowledge paternity, the following must occur:

- The unmarried mother must have given birth in the state of Georgia
- The father must be the child's biological father
- Both parents must sign the same PA form

You must provide the following in order to establish paternity:

- A valid state or other government issued photo ID (driver's license, passport, etc.) from both parents
- Social Security numbers from both parents, if one exists
- If one or more of the parents is a minor, valid photo ID from the minor's parent or legal guardian