

STEP FIVE:

FILE THE VDP AT THE OFFICE OF VITAL RECORDS AND STATISTICS



Paternity is established when the VDP is filed at the Office of Vital Records and Statistics. The cost to file depends on when the VDP is filed:

- ❖ **In the hospital with the birth certificate: FREE.**
- ❖ **Within one year from the date of birth but after the birth certificate: \$15.00,** which includes one certified copy of the amended certificate.
- ❖ **After one year from the date of birth: \$20.00,** which includes one certified copy of the amended certificate.

*“We’re not married and
we don’t have any plans on getting married.
But my son’s always going to know
I’m there for him.
Signing the paternity form lets my son know that
his daddy loves him and
I’m always going to be there for him.”*

--From The Power of 2

STEP SIX:

CONGRATULATIONS!

**YOU’VE JUST
TAKEN A VERY
IMPORTANT STEP--
“FOR YOUR
CHILD’S SAKE.”**



WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Office of Vital Records and Statistics:
801-538-6105

Office of Recovery Services/Child Support
Services:
Salt Lake 801-536-8500 or 800-662-8525
Ogden 801-626-3475 or 800-336-2629
Layton 801-779-2273 or 877-547-1808
Provo 801-374-7233 or 800-255-8734
Richfield 435-896-5461 or 800-896-5461
St. George 435-674-3900 or 800-678-1732

Office of Recovery Services Website:
www.ors.utah.gov

Paternity Matters E-mail:
orspaternitymatters@utah.gov

Recorded presentation about the Voluntary
Declaration of Paternity:
Dial one of the ORS numbers above.
Press 2, then 6.

Legal assistance for custody, parent-time
or other issues:
Legal Aid Society (801) 328-8849
Utah State Bar Association,
Lawyer referral service (801) 531-9077

Voluntary Declaration of Paternity legal
citations:
Utah Code Annotated 78-45g-301 to 313

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

If you need help translating, reading or understanding the forms, or if you have other needs or disabilities which interfere with the paternity declaration process, make the health care facility or state agency aware of your needs. In accordance with the Americans with Disability Act, reasonable accommodations will be made for you.

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VOLUNTARY DECLARATION OF PATERNITY

IN
UTAH

*“STEPS YOU CAN TAKE
FOR YOUR CHILD’S SAKE”*



FEBRUARY 2006

STEP ONE:

LEARN WHY PATERNITY ESTABLISHMENT IS IMPORTANT?



PATERNITY MEANS FATHERHOOD

When an unmarried mother gives birth, the biological father of the child does not automatically have any of the legal rights or duties that go along with fatherhood.

“Paternity establishment” gives unmarried parents all of the same rights and duties that married parents have when a child is born.

PATERNITY ESTABLISHMENT:

- ❖ allows financial **SUPPORT** from both parents.
- ❖ permits the child to be added to the father’s, as well as the mother’s, **MEDICAL** insurance.
- ❖ may help doctors to research **FAMILY HEALTH HISTORY**.
- ❖ permits the father to pursue **RIGHTS** that go along with fatherhood, including custody, parent-time (visitation) and decision-making.
- ❖ gives the child a claim to **BENEFITS** from the father, such as inheritance, Social Security, veteran’s benefits, etc.
- ❖ may give the child important **CITIZENSHIP** rights, if the father was not born in the United States.

STEP TWO:

LEARN ABOUT THE VOLUNTARY DECLARATION OF PATERNITY (VDP)



The Voluntary Declaration of Paternity (VDP) is an easy form that unmarried parents can sign to state that a man is the biological father of the child and that he should be recognized by law as the father. Signing the VDP is completely voluntary.

The Voluntary Declaration of Paternity is the fastest, easiest and least expensive way to establish paternity in Utah.

Before you sign a VDP, the form will be explained to you in at least two ways:

1. You’ll watch a short video or listen to a recorded phone message, and
2. You’ll read a short paper called “The Voluntary Declaration of Paternity: What You Should Know.”

The VDP is a legal document, so take this time to learn about the form you’re signing, the legal rights and duties the VDP gives you and your child.

If either parent has any doubts that this man is the father of the child, you can have genetic tests to know for certain before you sign. You can get genetic tests through private companies at your own expense or through the Office of Recovery Services.

Genetic tests are FREE when establishing paternity and child support at the Office of Recovery Services.

Applications are available at the Office of Recovery Services’ phone numbers or website listed on the back of this brochure.



STEP THREE: FIND A VDP FORM

The VDP is given to unmarried parents with the birth certificate forms when a child is born. If the form is signed and filed with the birth certificate, the father’s name will be on the original birth certificate.

After the child’s birth, the VDP is also available at the Office of Vital Records and Statistics and at all local health departments. If the form is filed later, the Office of Vital Records and Statistics will amend the birth certificate to add the father’s name.

STEP FOUR:

SIGN THE VDP FORM



The mother and the biological father sign the VDP in front of two witnesses.

If the father or mother is under age 18, his or her parent or guardian must also sign the VDP.

If the mother is married to another man at any time during the 300 days before the child is born or when the child is born, her (ex-) husband must also sign the document to agree that he is not the biological father.

“It was important to me that my son know who his father is and that [his] name is on the birth certificate. The paternity form did that. It was easy, quick and didn’t cost us anything.”
—From The Power of 2