

PATERNITY ESTABLISHMENT . . .

- allows financial **SUPPORT** from both parents
- permits the child to be added to the father's and mother's **MEDICAL** insurance
- 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.

*"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*

For More Information. . .

Office of Vital Records and Statistics

801-538-6105

Office of Recovery Services

801-536-8500 or www.ORS.UTAH.GOV

Recorded legal message about the
Voluntary Declaration of Paternity

1-877-886-5332

Legal Assistance for custody, parent-time or
other issues

Legal Aid Society 801-328-8849

Utah State Bar, Lawyer referral

801-531-9077

"We're not married and we don't have any plans on getting married. But my son's always going to know I'm here 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

www.paternitymatters.utah.gov

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dhs/ors

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Paternity
matters

VOLUNTARY DECLARATION OF PATERNITY IN UTAH

*Steps You Can Take
For Your Child's Sake*

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 responsibilities that go along with fatherhood.

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

Step TWO: Learn about the Voluntary Declaration of Paternity—VDP

The VDP is a simple process, a 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.

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

1. You will watch a short video or listen to the recorded message, and
2. You will read a short paper “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 done privately, at your own expense, or through the Office of Recovery Services.

Step THREE: Sign the VDP form, and file at the Office of Vital Records and Statistics

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

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.

The mother and the biological father sign the VDP in front of two witnesses. If the father or mother is under age 18, the 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.