



# VOLUNTARY ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PARENTAGE

R-130-07012018

**This is a legal document. Print or type in permanent black ink.**

We voluntarily sign this acknowledgment to establish the child's parentage. We understand that this acknowledgment will be filed with the child's birth certificate and the names of both parents will be on the child's birth certificate. We further understand that this acknowledgment is a legal document with the same binding effect as a court judgment of parentage and that we will assume all of the rights and responsibilities of legal parentage.

We acknowledge that we are the parents of the following CHILD Full name to appear on the birth certificate:			Social Security # (if assigned):	
First name	Middle Name	Last Name		
If amending, First Name as it now appears	Middle Name as it now appears	Last name as it now appears		
Birthplace: City/Town	State	Date of Birth (Month spelled out, Day, Year)	Sex (M/F)	

PARENT (Full name to appear on the birth certificate)		Social Security #	Gender
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Surname at my Birth or Adoption
Residence: No. & Street Name	City/Town	State	Zip Code
Date of Birth (Month spelled out, Day, Year)	Birthplace: City/Town	State (Country if not U.S.)	

PARENT (Full name to appear on the birth certificate)		Social Security #	Gender
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Surname at my Birth or Adoption
Residence: No. & Street Name	City/Town	State	Zip Code
Date of Birth (Month spelled out, Day, Year)	Birthplace: City/Town	State (Country if not U.S.)	

We swear or affirm as follows:

*Check at least one:*

We are both biological parents to this child, AND/OR

This child was conceived through assisted reproductive technology (ART) with the consent of both of us and we hold out the child as our child.

*Check one:*

One parent gave birth to this child, OR

One parent obtained a pre-birth court order (attached) establishing that he/she is the parent of the child (delivered by a gestational surrogate).

*Check one:*

The birthing parent or court-ordered parent was not married at the time this child was born or within 300 days before the child's birth, OR

The birthing parent or court-ordered parent was married at the time of birth or within 300 days before birth to someone other than the second intended parent. We understand that the second intended parent will not be added to the birth certificate unless this form is accompanied by an *Affidavit of Non-Parentage* signed by that spouse or the court has determined that the spouse is not the child's legal parent.

I understand that signing this form is voluntary and that parentage is established as of the date that this form is completed by both parents and properly filed at the offices of the city or town clerk where the child was born or the State Registry of Vital Records and Statistics. I have read and understand the information on this form, and on the *Notice of Rights and Responsibilities: Voluntary Acknowledgment of Parentage*, including the information on the process for rescinding (canceling) this acknowledgement. I understand the rights and responsibilities that result when both parents sign this form. I hereby swear or affirm under the penalties of perjury that the information above is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Parent	Date	Signature of Parent	Date
Form read in (language):		Form read in (language):	

On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared

\_\_\_\_\_ who proved to me through satisfactory evidence of identification, which was or were \_\_\_\_\_ to be the person whose name is signed on this document and who swore or affirmed to me that the contents of the document are truthful and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge and belief and that he/she signed this form voluntarily for its stated purpose.

Notary Public	Notary Public
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# **Notice of Rights and Responsibilities: Voluntary Acknowledgment of Parentage**

## **How Is Parentage Established When A Child's Parents Are Not Married To Each Other?**

If a child's parents are not married to each other, parentage of the non-birthing parent can only be established by:

1. Completing an acknowledgment form at the hospital where the child was born prior to birth certificate registration, or
2. Completing this form at the State Registry of Vital Statistics, the clerk's office for the city or town where the child was born, or at the Probate and Family Court, or
3. Filing a paternity action in court.

Otherwise, your child may only have one parent under the law, and only one parent's name will go on the birth certificate.

## **What Does It Mean If You Sign This Form?**

The *Voluntary Acknowledgment of Parentage* form establishes the parentage of a non-marital child for whom there are two intended parents, after the parents have signed it and the State Registry of Vital Records and Statistics has accepted it for legal registration. "Parentage" is the legal relationship between a child and parent. "Voluntary" means that you freely choose to sign this form. Use of this form is applicable if all of the following conditions are met:

- Both intended parents are biologically related to the child AND/OR the child was conceived using one or more assisted reproductive technologies (ART), such as artificial insemination, in-vitro fertilization, or gestational surrogacy, with the consent of both intended parents. Donor gametes (sperm, eggs, and/or embryos) may or may not have been used as part of this process.
- One intended parent gave birth to the child OR one intended parent obtained a pre-birth court order (which must be attached to this form) establishing that (s)he is the parent of a child carried by a gestational surrogate.
- The birthing parent or court ordered parent was not married at the time of birth or within 300 days before birth OR, if the birthing or court ordered parent was married during that period, an *Affidavit of Non-Parentage* signed by the that parent's spouse accompanies this form.
- The intended parent's parental rights to the child in question have *not* previously been terminated.

If these criteria are not met, this form is not a valid method for establishing parentage.

## **DO NOT SIGN THIS FORM IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBTS ABOUT THE PARENTAGE OF THIS CHILD DO NOT SIGN THIS FORM IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND IT**

- If you have any questions about the legal consequences of signing the form, consult an attorney before signing.
- You must confirm, by initialing a checkbox that you have read and understand the acknowledgment form and this Notice of Rights and Responsibilities before signing.
- If you prefer to read the form in another language, ask for a translated form or a translator to assist you.

Parentage is established as of the date the parents have signed the acknowledgment, if it is properly completed and filed. Sixty (60) days or less after both parents sign the form, it is as binding as a court judgment of parentage. The acknowledgment may be the basis for court orders of child support, custody or visitation.

If, after signing, either of you believes that an individual named on this form is not the legal parent, one of you must file a case in Probate and Family Court within 60 days of the signing, requesting the court to rescind (cancel) the acknowledgment.

If you are a party to a court hearing about the child, such as a custody or child support hearing, during the 60 day period after signing, and you want to rescind (cancel) the acknowledgment, you must say so in the hearing and file a case in Probate and Family Court asking to rescind before the end of the 60 day period. Otherwise, your rights to rescind the acknowledgment will expire (run out) at the time of the hearing.

After the acknowledgment form becomes like a court judgment of parentage, you can challenge it in court within one year only on limited grounds of fraud, duress or material mistake of fact.

## **What Are Your Rights and Responsibilities As Parents?**

1. **FINANCIAL SUPPORT.** Both parents must support their child from birth. If your child does not live with you, a court may order you to pay child support.
2. **VISITATION.** A parent who does not live with the child may have the right to visit and establish a relationship with the child under an agreement of the parents or a court order.
3. **CUSTODY.** The mother (if applicable) has custody of a child born to unmarried parents unless otherwise ordered by the court.

## **How Will You And Your Child Benefit If You Sign This Form?**

1. The legal parent(s) names will appear on the child's birth certificate.
2. It is easier to get a child support order should the need arise.
3. It will be easier for your child to receive benefits such as health insurance, dependent or survivor's benefits from the Department of Veterans' Affairs or from the Social Security Administration or inherit through both parents.