

NOT SURE?

If parents don't agree on parentage, genetic testing may be requested.

Over-the-counter tests cannot be used as evidence in court.

If you need a test to establish parentage, contact an accredited laboratory.

If you need both parentage and child support established, contact your local child support office.

Questions about parentage?
Please call 303.866-6430



CONTACT US

PARENTAGE



The Department of Human Services, Office of Child Support Services can assist with establishing parentage and child support matters.

303-866-6430
<https://childsupport.state.co.us>

What Every Parent Needs To Know

WHY SHOULD I ESTABLISH PARENTAGE?

Establishing parentage can make a difference in your child's life. Determining the legal parents of a child assures the child and parents certain rights, such as:

IDENTITY: All children have a right to know both of their parents. Both parents will be listed on the birth certificate.

MEDICAL: All children have the right to know if they have inherited any special health problems.

HEALTH INSURANCE: All children have the right to medical insurance coverage which might be possible to obtain through an employer, union or military branch of either parent.

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: All children have the right to be supported financially by both parents. Child support services are available at NO FEE through the local child support agency in each county in Colorado at: www.childsupport.state.co.us. These services include locating either of the child's parents, establishing parentage, obtaining a support order and collecting child support payments. Either parent may hire a private attorney.

SURVIVOR'S BENEFITS: All children have the right to certain benefits when a parent dies, which may include Social Security, pensions, inheritance rights, veteran's benefits and life insurance.

HOW DO I ESTABLISH PARENTAGE?

VOLUNTARY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PARENTAGE: When parents are not married and agree on who is legally responsible for a child, parentage can be established by an Acknowledgement of Parentage (AOP) form. This document may be completed at the hospital after the birth of your child or filed with the office of Vital Records. An AOP becomes a legal finding 60 days after signing.

COURT ORDER: Parentage may also be determined by a court. For alleged parents, it is very important to actively participate in this process. If an alleged father does not appear in court when a hearing is set, the court can enter a default order for parentage and support.

MARRIAGE OR REGISTERED CIVIL UNION: In the State of Colorado, if parents are married when a child is born the spouse is considered to be the legal parent. This creates a "presumption of parentage." Parentage may also be presumed by the court of law when parents were married, have attempted to marry, or have been divorced within 300 days of a child's birth.



WHEN CAN PARENTAGE BE ESTABLISHED?

Colorado law allows a parentage action to be started any time before the child reaches the age of 18 and in some circumstances up to the age of 21.

CAN PARENTAGE BE ESTABLISHED IF THE OTHER PARENT LIVES IN A DIFFERENT STATE?

Yes, but it may take more time. These services are available through the local child support agency in each county in Colorado.

DOES ESTABLISHING PARENTAGE ALSO ESTABLISH PARENTING TIME?

No, parenting time can be arranged informally between parents or set by the court. If there is a disagreement, the court would have to settle the matter.