



Once paternity is established the child may be eligible for the father's social security or veteran's benefits if the father dies or becomes disabled. And only a legal father can put a child on his health insurance policy.

If the parents do split up, paternity acknowledgment gives kids some added financial protection, since both parents are responsible for supporting their child.

**For more information about
establishing paternity,
please call**

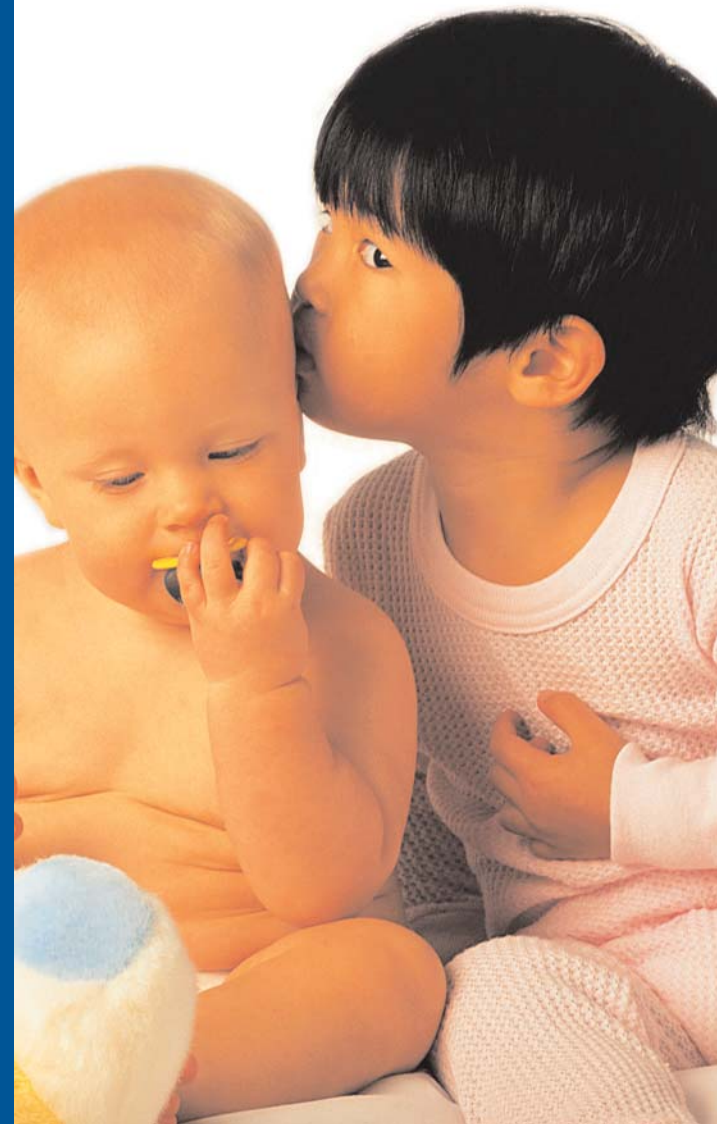
1-888-675-7425

Commonwealth of Kentucky
A program of the Cabinet for Families
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Unmarried Parents

*Make the Best Choice
For Your Child*



**Kentucky
Paternity Acknowledgment Program**



Paternity Acknowledgment is Important

All unmarried parents should think about acknowledging paternity—because all kids deserve the benefits that legal fatherhood can provide.

If you're not married when your child is born, your child does not have a legal father.

Unless a man becomes the legal father, his child may miss out on many of the things that kids of married couples take for granted. The child may not receive the benefits that come with having two legal parents—like social security, health insurance, and inheritance rights. The father's name won't even appear on the child's birth certificate.

What is paternity acknowledgment?

Paternity is the legal word that means a man is the real father of the child.

Paternity acknowledgment is the process that makes a man the legal father and establishes a parent-child relationship under the law.

Is paternity acknowledgment easy?

Yes! The paternity acknowledgment process is easy. Parents simply complete a legal form, and sign the form in front of a notary public. Paternity acknowledgment will be explained to you in the hospital as you complete your child's birth certificate. Parents can acknowledge paternity at the hospital when their child is born. This gives their child a legal father right from the start!

Parents can also fill out a paternity form later at a local health department, local county attorney's office or local child support office.

What if parents acknowledge paternity but change their minds later?

Of course, parents should think carefully before acknowledging paternity. If they do change their minds, they have 60 days to rescind (cancel) the acknowledgment.

What are your rights as a parent?

Legal parents have a right to have a relationship with their child and to visit their child. Once a man acknowledges paternity, he gains these rights. If parents can't agree on visitation or custody, a court can help.

What are your responsibilities as a parent?

Both parents are required to support their child from birth. This might include such things as child support, health insurance or child care expenses.

What if parents aren't sure who the father is?

Blood or genetic tests can help determine whether a man is the father. A child support office or private attorney can give you more information.