What If Parents Acknowledge Paternity but Change Their Minds Later?

Parents should think carefully before acknowledging paternity. If you do change your mind, you have 60 days to rescind (cancel) the paternity acknowledgment. A court order is required to remove the name of the father from the birth certificate.

What Are Your Responsibilities as a Parent?

Both parents are required to support their child from birth. This might include providing child support, health insurance, and/or childcare expenses.

Benefits of Paternity Acknowledgment:

**Paternity helps children:**
- Receive financial support from both parents
- Include the father’s name on the birth certificate
- Qualify for benefits, such as the father’s health insurance or Social Security

**Paternity helps mothers and fathers:**
- Share the responsibility and rewards of parenthood
- Include their name on the child’s birth certificate
- Establish an emotional bond with the child

For more information about paternity, call:

Georgia Paternity Acknowledgment Program

Phone: 706-721-7001
Toll Free: 1-866-296-8262

For more information about birth certificates, call:

State Office of Vital Records
404-679-4702

Make a positive choice for your child

Georgia Paternity Acknowledgment Program

DHR GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
For Unmarried Parents

Form OCSE 400
What Is Paternity Acknowledgment and Why Should I Complete a Paternity Form?
Paternity acknowledgment allows unmarried parents to add the biological father’s name to their child’s birth certificate. To take advantage of this opportunity, you must complete a paternity acknowledgment form. Once you do, your child will receive the following benefits that come from having two parents:

- The use of his or her father’s last name
- Knowledge of both parents’ medical histories
- The opportunity to have a relationship with both parents
- Legal support from dad’s side of family

In addition, your child may be eligible for Social Security benefits and may gain inheritance rights.

What Is Legitimation and Why Is It Necessary?
Legitimation is an action that allows the biological father of a child born in Georgia to establish legal rights to his child. It is the only way, aside from marrying the child’s mother, to gain these rights.

Effective July 2005, parents who sign a voluntary paternity acknowledgment may also sign a voluntary acknowledgment of legitimation. Effective July 2008, this opportunity is limited to the child’s first year of life.

What Rights Will I Have?
Legitimating your child does not automatically give you visitation or custody rights—just the opportunity to petition the court for them. Only a superior court order can formalize visitation or custody.

What If Parents Are Not Sure Who the Father Is?
Genetic (paternity) testing can help you determine whether a man is a child’s biological father. By calling GPAP, you can receive referrals for DNA testing at reduced prices. A child support office or private attorney can also give you more information.

Is Paternity Acknowledgment Easy?
Yes! The paternity acknowledgment process is easy and available to parents if the mother was not married at the time of birth, at the time of conception, or at any time in between. Parents simply complete a paternity acknowledgment form at the vital records office in the county where the child was born or at the State Office of Vital Records in Atlanta.

What Are the Requirements to Acknowledge Paternity?
In order for you to acknowledge paternity, the following must occur:

- The mother must have given birth in the State of Georgia
- The father must be the child’s biological father.
- Both parents must sign the same paternity acknowledgment form.

What Do I Need to Acknowledge Paternity?
You must provide the following in order to establish paternity:

- A photo ID (driver’s license, work or school ID) from both parents
- Social Security numbers from both parents if they have one