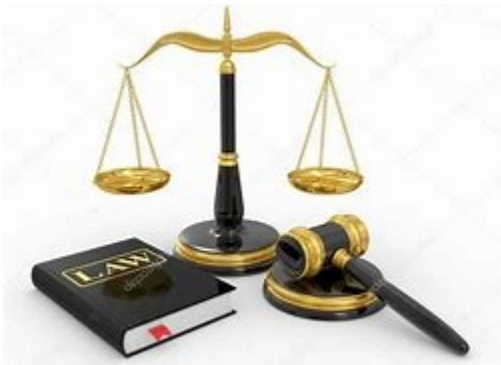


ESTABLISHING PATERNITY FOR YOUR CHILD



***Wayne County Prosecutor's
Office***

Child Support Division

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What does it mean to establish paternity?

Establishing paternity means to name a legal father for a child born out of wedlock. Paternity proceedings also can decide important matters such as custody, parenting time, child support, medical coverage, and your child's surname.

How can I establish paternity for my child?

*The mother and father can sign a paternity affidavit, either at the hospital within 72 hours (3 days) of the child's birth, or at the local health department up until the child reaches 21 years of age. *You will not be entitled to paternity testing for the child if you sign a paternity affidavit, unless you ask for testing within 60 days of signing the affidavit.**

*If you don't sign a paternity affidavit, parents can have paternity established through the court system. *This is the only option for paternity establishment that allows you to have paternity testing for the child.* These court proceedings will set up custody, visitation, and child support orders for the child.*

Do I have to have a paternity test in order to establish paternity?

No. However, if either party asks for a paternity test during the court proceedings, the Court has to order that all parties have a paternity test. Genetic testing is done in the Child Support Division and costs \$23.00 per person. The party asking for testing usually will have to reimburse the State of Indiana for the costs of genetic testing.

How do I establish paternity through the court system?

You can fill out an application for paternity in the Child Support Division office. You need to provide detailed information about the other parent and a copy of your child's birth certificate and Medicaid card. Once your application is processed, you will receive court papers to appear in court. At the court hearing, the father either can ask for DNA testing or admit paternity.

Will it cost me anything for these services?

There is no charge for services through the Child Support Division.

How much child support will the Court order for my child?

Child support is calculated according to the Indiana Child Support Guidelines. The Guidelines take into consideration many different factors, such as the number of children, work-related daycare expenses, both parents' gross income, other child support obligations of each parent, and the cost of health insurance premiums.

Do I have to establish paternity through the court system?

If your child receives TANF or Medicaid, you must establish paternity for your child through the court system. If your child receives TANF, you are required to obtain a child support order for your child.

If your child receives Medicaid, you are required to obtain a medical support order or an order about health

insurance coverage for your child. If you do not cooperate, the Child Support Division can sanction your benefits.

How do I have a sanction removed for noncompliance with the Child Support Division?

You must fill out the appropriate application with the Child Support Division and provide all of the necessary information to the best of your ability. Once your application is processed, a Child Support Division caseworker will release your sanction by sending a request to the Division of Family Resources.