

# Establishing Paternity



DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMIC SECURITY  
*Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona*



DID YOU  
**KNOW?**

According to the Center for Disease Control, **40-49%** children are born to unwed parents in Arizona every year.

By establishing paternity, parents take a positive first step to secure their child's future.



## Hospital Paternity Program

This program is free to parents and establishes paternity, which is legal fatherhood. When the baby is born in the hospital, parents have the option to sign a 'Voluntary Acknowledgement of Paternity' form to add the father's name to the birth certificate. This can also be done at a later time. When the form is completed in the hospital, an employee will either witness or notarize the form. The signed form is sent to the Hospital Paternity Program, where the father's name is added to the Bureau of Vital Records database.

## Growth and Development

The involvement of supportive adults in a child's life is essential for their development and sense of belonging. Studies show that children excel in school and have better social and emotional skills when both parents actively participate in the child's life.

## Health

Your child's health is very important. Birth certificates with both parent's names provide complete family medical history should your child become ill. Contributing to the child's health insurance and medical expenses is a responsibility that should be shared between both parents when possible.

## Financial Support

To ensure children receive the support they need to be successful, there is a state-funded program available to establish a legal relationship for children with their fathers. You and your child may have a right to child support payments and other financial benefits such as inheritance rights, retirement pension benefits, life insurance, unemployment compensation - even lottery winnings.



**To learn more  
about the Hospital  
Paternity Program,  
ask a hospital  
employee during  
your hospital stay  
or call 602-771-8181  
or 1-800-485-6908.**



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