

## EVERY CHILD HAS A BIOLOGICAL FATHER AND MOTHER...

but if the parents are not legally married at the time of birth, the law does not recognize the father as the child's legal father and does not give him any rights or responsibilities to the child.

There are steps that must be taken so the biological father can become the legal father, and that is what establishing paternity is all about.

## HOW DO I RECEIVE CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES?

Anyone can get child support services, free or for a small fee, through their local Child Support Services (CSS) agency.

In Kansas, the CSS office is part of the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF). You may also hire a private attorney.

In some Kansas locations, a district court trustee can also help. Child support services include finding the father if he has moved, establishing paternity, getting a support order and collecting child support payments.

CSS services do not include visitation or custody matters.

# Kansas Department for Children and Families



## Child Support Services

### Establishing Paternity

## QUESTIONS ABOUT CHILD SUPPORT?

Contact the Child Support  
Call Center

**888-757-2445**

Child Support Case # \_\_\_\_\_

## EVERY CHILD

needs emotional and  
financial support from  
both parents.



*Strong Families Make a Strong Kansas*

## WHY IS PATERNITY SO IMPORTANT?

### For the Child

- Legal record of the identity of both parents
- Information on family medical history
- Emotional benefits of knowing both parents
- Financial support from both parents, including child support, Social Security, veteran's benefits, military allowances, and inheritance
- Health or life insurance from either parent, if available

### For the Mother

- Help in sharing parental responsibilities
- Information about family medical history
- Improved financial security for the child
- Access to medical insurance, if available

### For the Father

- Legal establishment of parental rights
- Right to seek court-ordered custody or visitation
- Right to be informed and have a say in adoption proceedings



## WHAT ARE THE WAYS TO ESTABLISH PATERNITY?

### Acknowledgment of Paternity

Unmarried parents have the option of signing a form called an *Acknowledgment of Paternity* (available from local hospitals or Kansas Vital Statistics). This is a no-cost, simple and convenient method, but not everyone is eligible to use it. Be sure to read the Paternity Consent Form for Birth Registration carefully, because it creates a permanent father/child relationship.

The following are examples when couples should not sign the Acknowledgment of Paternity form for Birth Registration:

- If the mother was legally married to anyone at the time of birth or within 300 days from the date the baby was born
- If the mother is separated and not legally divorced
- If the man is not sure he is the father

If you have questions, ask your medical provider/Child Support worker or Vital Statistics (Kansas Department of Health and Environment).

### Filing a Paternity Petition

If you choose or need to establish paternity, you may apply for services with your local Kansas Child Support Services office. There are a few ways in which paternity can be established.

If there is a question about paternity, you may request genetic testing. Genetic testing can be offered prior to filing an official court action and is offered at no cost through Child Support Services. If the test shows the alleged father is the biological father, then a petition can be filed with the court so an official order declaring the paternity can be entered.

If testing was not completed voluntarily, a petition is filed with the court and an order for genetic testing to determine the father of the child may be requested. The genetic test will still be free of charge.

The genetic test involves the mother, child and possible father going to a designated site where a lab technician will swab the inside of their cheeks with a cotton swab. The lab results are sent to the contracted laboratory. Genetic testing is the most accurate way to determine the father of a child.

If you have questions about paternity or child support please go to our website [www.dcf.ks.gov](http://www.dcf.ks.gov) or call **888-757-2445**.



## KANSAS PAYMENT CENTER

P.O. Box 758599, Topeka, KS 66675-8599

For Payment Inquiries: **877-572-5722**

Pay online: [www.kspaycenter.com](http://www.kspaycenter.com)

Or payment locations identified at

[paynearme.com](http://paynearme.com) or  
[moneygram.com](http://moneygram.com)

Please include your name, case number and Social Security number on payment to ensure proper credit.

Court Order # \_\_\_\_\_