



WILSON HEALTH

Caring Without Limits

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE

In Ohio, if a mother is not married at the time of her child's birth, Ohio does not recognize a father. This means a father cannot be listed on your child's birth certificate until paternity is established. Paternity can be established one of two ways:

- Paternity Testing
 - Testing is done through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services at no cost. All unmarried parents have the right to paternity testing.
- Acknowledgement of Paternity Affidavit
 - The Acknowledgement of Paternity Affidavit is a legal document requiring a notary to witness both the mother and father's signatures. This is a voluntary document and is for parents who have no doubt about paternity. It is waiving your right to paternity testing. If there is any doubt about paternity, this form cannot be signed.
 - This acknowledgement can be completed at the hospital at the time of your child's birth. Completing the acknowledgement will allow the hospital to add the biological father's information to the birth certificate.

According to ORC 3705.09 & 3111.03, if a mother is married at the time of birth or within 300 days prior to the child's birth, the husband (ex-husband) is presumed to be the father of the baby.

WHAT IF MY HUSBAND IS NOT THE FATHER OF THE BABY?

If a mother declares the husband is not the father of the child, he must still be listed as the father on the birth certificate until paternity testing is complete. The results of the paternity testing would start the process of getting the husband's information off the birth certificate.

WHAT IF I AM DIVORCED?

If a mother is divorced, she must have finalized her divorce greater than 300 days prior to the birth of the baby in order to leave the ex-husband off the birth certificate. If the divorce was final less than 300 days prior to the baby's birth, the ex-husband **MUST** be listed as the father of the child. The only exception to this Ohio law is legal documentation. If the mother provides to the hospital court stamped and sealed documents specifically stating that the ex-husband is not the father of the unborn child, there may be a chance the ex-husband could be left off the birth certificate. The hospital will make a copy of those court documents and send them to the Ohio Department of Health Office of Vital Statistics for approval. If the State approves those court documents, the ex-husband may be left off the birth certificate, and an Acknowledgment of Paternity Affidavit may be completed in order to add the biological father to the birth certificate.

If a mother does not have any documentation to support her husband (ex-husband) not being the baby's father, he must be placed on the record.

If a mother refuses to supply the husband's (ex-husband's) information, the birth certificate is put in a HOLD status. When a birth certificate is put in a HOLD status, there is no birth certificate complete for the child meaning a social security number will not be issued for the child, and a medical card cannot be issued. It is best to provide the hospital with the husband's (ex-husband's) information so a birth record can be completed. Once paternity testing is complete, the husband (ex-husband) is taken off the birth certificate.

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR SPECIFIC SITUATION CAN BE DIRECTED TO:

Copeland-Emerson Family Birth Center (937) 498-5497

OR

CENTRAL PATERNITY REGISTRY of OHIO – (888) 810-6446 or VISIT

<http://www.oh-paternity.com/>