

Paternity Opportunity Program



PATERNITY
OPPORTUNITY
PROGRAM



**For unmarried parents,
a birth certificate
DOES NOT establish
legal paternity.**

*A birth certificate can be used to establish the identity of the person named on it—but for children of unmarried parents, it is **NOT** the document that legally establishes who a child's father is.*

Establishing legal paternity helps a child in many ways, including:

- The child knows who both parents are
- The father's name can be placed on the birth certificate
- The child is entitled to support from both parents
- The father's medical history can be accessed
- Health insurance coverage may be available from the father
- The child may receive an inheritance from either parent
- The father's Social Security or veterans' benefits may be available to the child

It's easy to establish legal paternity without going to court—and it's free.

To find out more:

Call toll-free 1-866-249-0773

E-mail askpop@dcss.ca.gov

Click on the POP link at www.childsup.ca.gov

**California Department of Child Support Services
Paternity Opportunity Program (POP)**