

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

P.O. Box 419064, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9064

Reason for this Transmittal

- State Law or Regulation Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order or Settlement Change
- Clarification requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by DCSS

August 26, 2003

POP Letter: 03-06

TO: ALL FAMILY LAW FACILITATORS, LOCAL REGISTRARS OF BIRTHS AND DEATH AND COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICES

SUBJECT: ENGLISH AND SPANISH LANGUAGE PATERNITY OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM VIDEO TAPES AVAILABILITY AND RECORDED MESSAGE REGARDING PARENTS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The purpose of this letter is to notify all public agencies required by California Family Code Section 7571 to provide voluntary declaration of paternity services of two new ways to notify parents of their paternity rights and responsibilities.

California Family Code Section 7572 (c) requires that agencies providing voluntary declaration of paternity services must give parents oral notice of their rights and responsibilities. Oral notice may be accomplished through the use of audio or videotape programs developed by the Department.

The Department of Child Support Services has developed new English and Spanish Paternity Opportunity Program (POP) informational videos to help meet the statutory requirements to orally inform parents about their paternity rights and responsibilities. Enclosed as an attachment to this letter is a description of the contents of the two POP videos.

To request a copy of the English or Spanish videos, e-mail your request to askpop@dcss.ca.gov, or call toll free at (866) 249-0773. Supplies are limited so please submit your order as soon as possible. Please include a physical address of where you wish the tape(s) to be delivered.



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Also, in response to a suggestion made by a hospital birth clerk, the Department of Child Support Services has added a recorded message on parents' rights and responsibilities to our toll free number at (866) 249-0773. The enclosed flyer explains how the English recording can be accessed. **We anticipate adding a recording in Spanish to the toll-free line sometime in the near future.** The telephone recording provides another method for satisfying the federal and state requirements to orally inform parents of their rights and responsibilities.

It has come to our attention that some agencies are not meeting the statutory requirement to provide POP services. As a reminder, please note that California Family Code Section 7571 (f) provides:

“Declarations shall be made available without charge at all local child support agency offices, offices of local registrars of births and deaths, courts and county welfare departments within the state. Staff in these offices shall witness the signatures of parents wishing to sign a voluntary declaration of paternity and shall be responsible for forwarding the signed declaration to the Department of Child Support Services within 20 days of the date the declaration was signed.”

If you have any questions about POP or the POP videos, please contact your state DCSS POP analyst listed on the enclosed assignment sheet.

Sincerely,

Francine Woods, Chief
Customer and Community Services Branch

Enclosures

Description of POP Videos

1. English Language Video Including – “Providing for Your Child” and “Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment Staff Training Video

“Providing for Your Child” is a 2003 revision of the parents’ informational video on the rights, responsibilities and benefits of establishing paternity by the voluntary declaration of paternity process. This video has been revised to include an introduction by Curtis Child, Director, of the California Department of Child Support Services (DCSS). The video should be shown to new or expectant unmarried parents before they are presented with the CS 909, Declaration of Paternity form.

The second segment, “Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment Staff Training Video”

provides an overview and basic orientation of the voluntary paternity process for staff at hospital agencies that must present the voluntary paternity forms to parents. This video is an excellent tool to introduce new staff members to POP. This video also contains a welcome message from Curtis Child, Director, of the DCSS.

2. Spanish Language Video – “El Poder De 2” (The Power of Two).

The Federal Office of Child Support developed this Spanish language video Enforcement to ensure hospitals and agencies that administer the POP program will have information in Spanish available for parents about the voluntary paternity process.

Showing this video to parents prior to signing a declaration of paternity form meets requirement of state and federal law to orally inform parents of their rights and responsibilities prior to signing a declaration of paternity. This video should be shown to

Spanish speaking parents before they are presented the CS 909 (Sp), Declaration of Paternity form.