

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

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



February 28, 2007

POP LETTER : 07-01

TO: ALL IV-D DIRECTORS
LCSA PATERNITY OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM COORDINATORS
ALL LICENSED BIRTHING HOSPITALS
ALL PUBLIC AGENCIES THAT ADMINISTER THE PATERNITY OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

SUBJECT: UPDATED POSTER AND INFORMATIONAL TOOLS

The Department of Child Support Services, Paternity Opportunity Program (POP) has redesigned the following outreach materials: POP Poster (POP30 (2/07)), Military Flyer (POP10 (2/07)), Birth Certificate Flyer (POP11 (2/07)), Who Can Witness Flyer (POP13 (2/07)), Error-Free Flyer (POP14 (2/07)) and POP Pamphlet (POP20 (2/07)).

Enclosed with this letter is a sample of the materials, some of which will soon be available in Armenian, Chinese, Hmong, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese on our website at www.childsup.ca.gov. We encourage you to make copies and distribute as informational tools to parents wishing to sign a voluntary declaration of paternity. Copies may also be given to family advocate groups and programs as a way to expand your POP network.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the State POP Team at (866) 249-0773 or e-mail at ASKPOP@dcss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ T. Maria Caudill

T. Maria Caudill
Assistant Director
Office of Communications & Public Affairs

Enclosures

An opportunity

Paternity Opportunity Program



for unmarried parents
Establish fatherhood
for your child

Sign the Declaration of Paternity

Give your child

- A legal father to know and love
- The father's name on the birth certificate
- Access to the father's:
 - Medical and life insurance coverage
 - Social Security and veterans' benefits

To find out more about establishing paternity

Call toll-free 1-866-249-0773

E-mail askpop@dcss.ca.gov

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



Military Dads-To-Be

Did you know?



- ★ **In California, unmarried parents must legally establish their baby's paternity before the father's name can be included on the birth certificate.**

Paternity can be established by court order, or voluntarily by signing a Declaration of Paternity (CS909 form) in front of a qualified witness or notary public when the baby is born.

- ★ **By establishing paternity, the child gets the legal rights and privileges of a child born to married parents.**

These rights may include medical and life insurance coverage; Social Security and veterans' benefits (if available); legal documentation of who his or her parents are; access to family medical records; inheritance; and the emotional benefits of knowing who both parents are.

- ★ **Only military dads-to-be can sign a Declaration of Paternity BEFORE the baby is born.**

- A military dad with orders that will prevent him from being present at the time of his child's birth can sign a Declaration of Paternity **before** deployment.
- His signature must be witnessed by a qualified witness or notary public.
- A copy of his orders must be attached to the Declaration of Paternity.
- The two documents must be held by the mother until after the baby is born.
- Upon the birth of the child, the mother and baby's information is completed on the Declaration of Paternity and the mother's signature witnessed or notarized.

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

Paternity Opportunity Program



PATERNITY
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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.

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

Paternity Opportunity Program



Who can witness a Declaration of Paternity?

In California, representatives from the agencies below are qualified to witness your Declaration:

**Family Law
Facilitator of
Local Court**

**Hospital where
your baby is
born**

**Local
Registrar of
Births & Deaths**

**Notary
Public**

**Local
Child Support
Agency**

**Local
Welfare
Office**

When signing the Declaration outside the state of California, a notary public* is the only qualified witness.

**A notary public may charge a fee for services.*

A Declaration of Paternity must be completed, signed by both parents with signatures properly witnessed, and filed with the California Department of Child Support Services before legal paternity is established.

To find out more about establishing paternity:

- **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)
DCSS POP, P.O. Box 419070, Rancho Cordova CA 95741-9070**



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Paternity Opportunity Program

ERROR-FREE Paternity Declarations



To file a valid, error-free Declaration of Paternity with DCSS, make sure these items are complete:

Use only black or blue ink

Print legibly

Child's first and last name

Child's date of birth

Child's county of birth

Father's first and last name

Mother's first and last name

Father's signature and date

Mother's signature and date

Witness or notary's name, date, signature & seal

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - HEALTH CARE AGENCY
 DECLARATION OF PATERNITY
 INSTRUCTIONS: PLEASE READ PAGE 1 AND 2 BEFORE COMPLETING

SECTION A: ALL PARTS OF SECTIONS A & B SHALL BE COMPLETED AND EITHER SECTION C OR D WITNESSED. CHANGES CANNOT BE MADE TO THIS FORM ONCE IT IS FILED WITH THE STATE.

SECTION B: READ OTHER SIDE BEFORE SIGNING

SECTION C: TO BE COMPLETED BY A WITNESS AT THE HOSPITAL, CLINIC OR CLINIC (PLEASE PRINT AND SIGN)

SECTION D: TO BE COMPLETED BY A NOTARY PUBLIC IF SECTION C IS NOT WITNESSED ABOVE

DISTRIBUTION: Original White Copy - DCSS Yellow & Pink Copies - Parents Green Copy - Local Child Support Agency

Fill in all spaces and mail original (white page) to:

DCSS-POP UNIT
 PO BOX 419070
 RANCHO CORDOVA CA 95741-9070

Questions?

Call POP toll-free at 1-866-249-0773

E-mail askpop@dcss.ca.gov

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



PATERNITY
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Why is it important to establish paternity?

In California, unmarried fathers do not have legal rights or responsibilities until legal paternity is established.

Fathers play a vital role in the lives of their children. Studies have shown an undeniable link between a father's absence and childhood poverty, teenage pregnancy, and family violence.

When unmarried parents sign a Declaration of Paternity, they help establish a foundation that provides their child with emotional, social and financial support.

Over 80 percent of unmarried fathers across California have declared paternity through the California Department of Child Support Services' Paternity Opportunity Program (POP), establishing paternity for over 1.4 million children.

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

To find out more:

- Call the POP Coordinator nearest you (see the list at right)
- E-mail askpop@dcss.ca.gov
- Click on the POP link at www.childsup.ca.gov
- Call toll-free 1-866-249-0773

Local Child Support Agency POP Coordinators

ALAMEDA 510-891-3368	MARIN 415-507-4068	SAN LUIS OBISPO 805-781-5734
ALPINE* 530-694-2235 X.236	MARIPOSA 209-966-3400	SAN MATEO 866-366-8221
AMADOR* 209-223-6318	MENDOCINO 707-463-4216	SANTA BARBARA 800-818-1386
BUTTE 530-538-7221	MERCED 209-381-1300	SANTA CLARA 408-503-5200
CALAVERAS* 209-223-6318	MODOC 800-676-9222	SANTA CRUZ 831-454-3700
COLUSA 530-458-0555	MONO 760-873-3659	SHASTA 530-225-5300
CONTRA COSTA 925-957-7395	MONTEREY 831-755-3200	SIERRA 530-271-5437
DEL NORTE 707-464-7232	NAPA 707-253-4251	SISKIYOU 800-676-9222
EL DORADO 530-621-5600	NEVADA*** 530-271-5437	SOLANO 888-823-2735
FRESNO 559-494-1000	ORANGE 714-347-8118	SONOMA 707-565-4000
GLENN 530-934-6527	PLACER 530-889-5700	STANISLAUS 209-541-2922
HUMBOLDT 707-441-3200	PLUMAS 530-283-6264	SUTTER 530-822-7338
IMPERIAL 760-482-2300	RIVERSIDE 951-955-4100	TEHAMA 530-527-3110
INYO** 760-873-3659	SACRAMENTO 916-875-7320	TRINITY 530-623-1306
KERN 661-868-6564	SAN BENITO 831-636-4130	TULARE 800-801-2500
KINGS 559-584-1425	SAN BERNARDINO 909-799-1790	TUOLUMNE 209-533-6400
LAKE 707-262-4300	SAN DIEGO 619-236-7600	VENTURA 805-654-5200
LASSEN 530-251-2630	SAN FRANCISCO 415-356-2700	YOLO 530-661-2880
LOS ANGELES 323-889-2758	SAN JOAQUIN 209-468-2601	YUBA 530-749-6000
MADERA 559-675-7885		

* Central Sierra Regional DCSS includes Alpine, Amador and Calaveras

** Inyo/Mono Regional DCSS

*** Sierra Nevada Regional DCSS



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OPPORTUNITY
PROGRAM

Paternity Opportunity Program POP

California Department
of Child Support Services



California Department of Child Support Services

Paternity Opportunity Program **POP**



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

To find out more:

Call your local POP Coordinator

E-mail askpop@dcss.ca.gov

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

Call toll-free 1-866-249-0773

How does establishing legal paternity benefit the child?

Signing a Declaration of Paternity helps children gain the same legal rights and privileges as children born within a marriage. 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

Completing a Declaration of Paternity at the hospital is easy and free, and it's the simplest way for an unwed father to make sure his name appears on his child's birth certificate.

Does a birth certificate establish legal paternity?

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

Legal paternity is established by voluntarily signing a Declaration of Paternity, or by obtaining a judgment in court.

For more information about birth certificates for children born in California, contact:

California Department of Health Services
Office of Vital Records (916) 445-2684

www.dhs.ca.gov/hisp/chs/ovr/birthordercert.htm

*In California, unmarried fathers **do not** have legal rights or responsibilities until legal paternity is established.*