



## 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](mailto:askpop@dcss.ca.gov)

Click on the POP link at [www.childsup.ca.gov](http://www.childsup.ca.gov)