

**DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**



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Dear Parents:

You have received this letter if you are a new parent and are not married. By law hospitals and/or midwives are required to give both parents an opportunity to sign paternity acknowledgment papers for their new baby. The paternity acknowledgment procedure gives you a chance to put the father's name legally on the birth certificate; this gives your new baby access to benefits equal to children being born to married parents.

The hospital or midwife will give you the following:

- (1) **A booklet titled "Paternity Information for Parents."** Please read this booklet thoroughly. It explains what paternity means and how paternity is established.
- (2) **Paternity Acknowledgment.** Both parents must sign and fully complete this form for it to be a legally binding document. This form creates a presumption of paternity. Paternity is not established until the original is filed with the Office of Vital Statistics.
- (3) **Notice of Withdrawal of Paternity Acknowledgment.** This form is used if either parent decides that the man who signed the Paternity Acknowledgment is not the true father. To be effective, the form must be filed within 60 days of the date the acknowledgment was signed, or before a support or paternity order is entered, whichever is earlier.

If you have any questions after reviewing this material, you should contact an attorney, the local legal services office, or the Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED). The CSED's telephone numbers are (406) 444-9855 (in Helena) and 1-800-346-5437 (outside Helena).

This informational packet is also available for the CSED web-site:

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/csed/paternity/index.shtml>

Sincerely,

Child Support Enforcement Division