

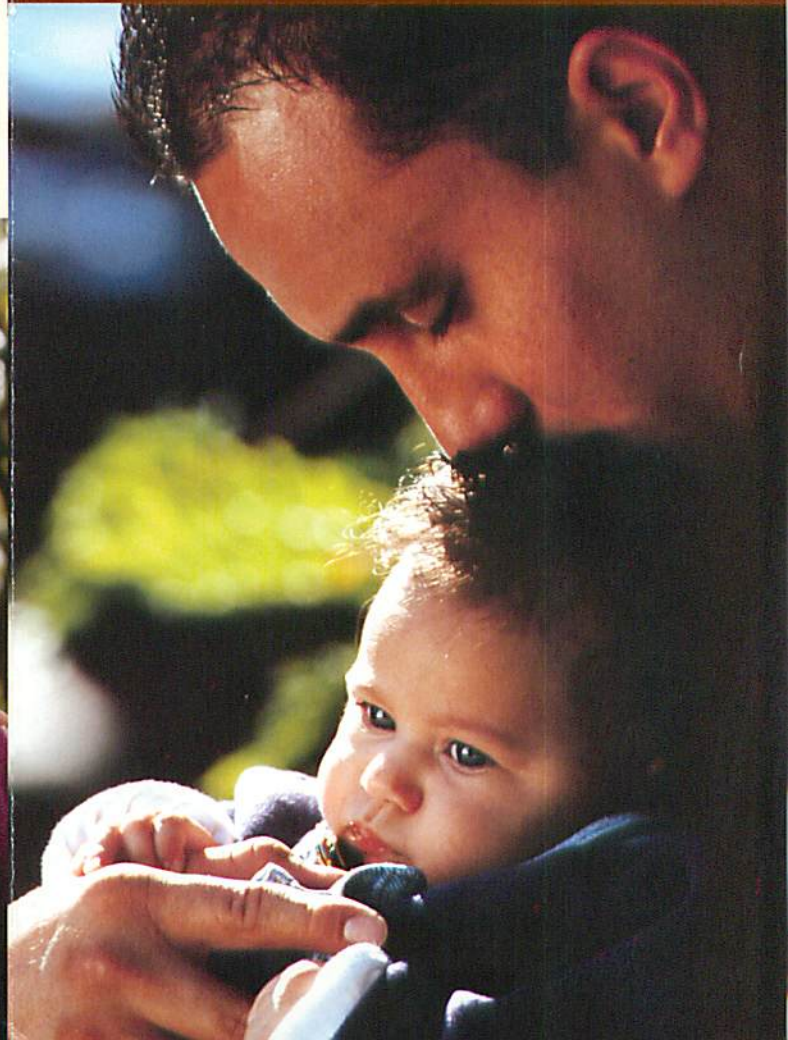
If you need help,
contact the Birth Registrar at
your hospital, your local health
department, or call the Virginia
Division of Child Support
Enforcement at 1-800-468-8894



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All babies deserve two parents...





How to Insure Your Baby Has Two Legal Parents

Establishing paternity means legally determining the baby's father so his name can appear on the birth certificate. To do this, both mother and father have to voluntarily sign an "Acknowledgment of Paternity" form.

- The hospital will give you the form
- Both parents must swear the information is true
- The father must show photo ID
- Even if you are under age 18, you don't need adult permission
- The signing procedure is free
- No blood test is required
- Both parents sign before mother and baby leave the hospital

If you leave the hospital without signing, you can always sign the Acknowledgement of Paternity form later on. Call 1-800-468-8894 to find out how to get the form you need. You can establish paternity anytime before your child turns 18 but remember doing it at birth gives your child a sense of identity to build on for a lifetime.

How to Determine the Baby's Father

If you aren't sure who the baby's father is, you can find out with a simple test. The mother, baby and possible father all need to be tested. Then the samples are sent to a laboratory.

- The test takes only a few minutes
- Results are usually available in 3-4 weeks
- The test will accurately determine paternity
- If the tested man turns out to be the father, he pays for all the tests; if he is not the father, the state pays for the tests

To request a paternity test, call 1-800-468-8894.

THE BENEFITS OF HAVING TWO PARENTS



For the Child

A child needs love and support from both parents to develop self-esteem. When children know they are part of a family, they are likely to grow up feeling more secure about who they are and where they come from. The child's other benefits are:

- Medical – knowing both sides of the family history of genetic traits, conditions or diseases
- Financial – having money for shelter, food and clothing
- Legal – getting medical insurance through the father's job and having the right to an inheritance, social security or veteran's benefits if he dies or becomes disabled

For the Mother

Every mother wants to give her baby the best possible start in life. Making sure that a child grows up with two legal parents helps provide a secure future. When an unmarried mother names the father of her child, she assures her own legal right to:

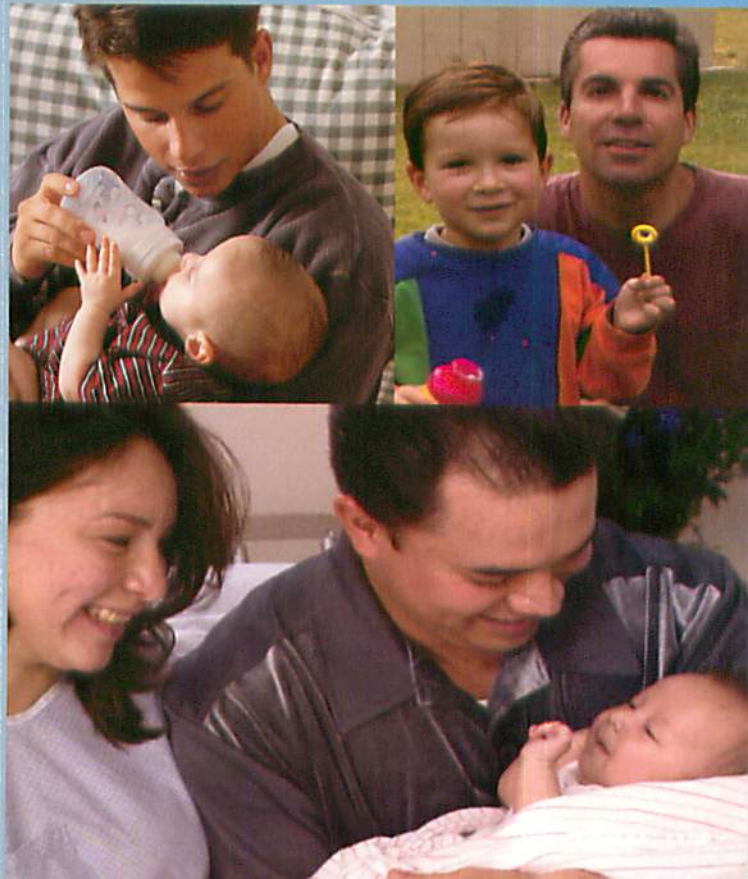
- Shared responsibility — knowing she won't be the only one accountable for the child's well-being
- Child support – having the father obligated by law to help pay for the child's upbringing

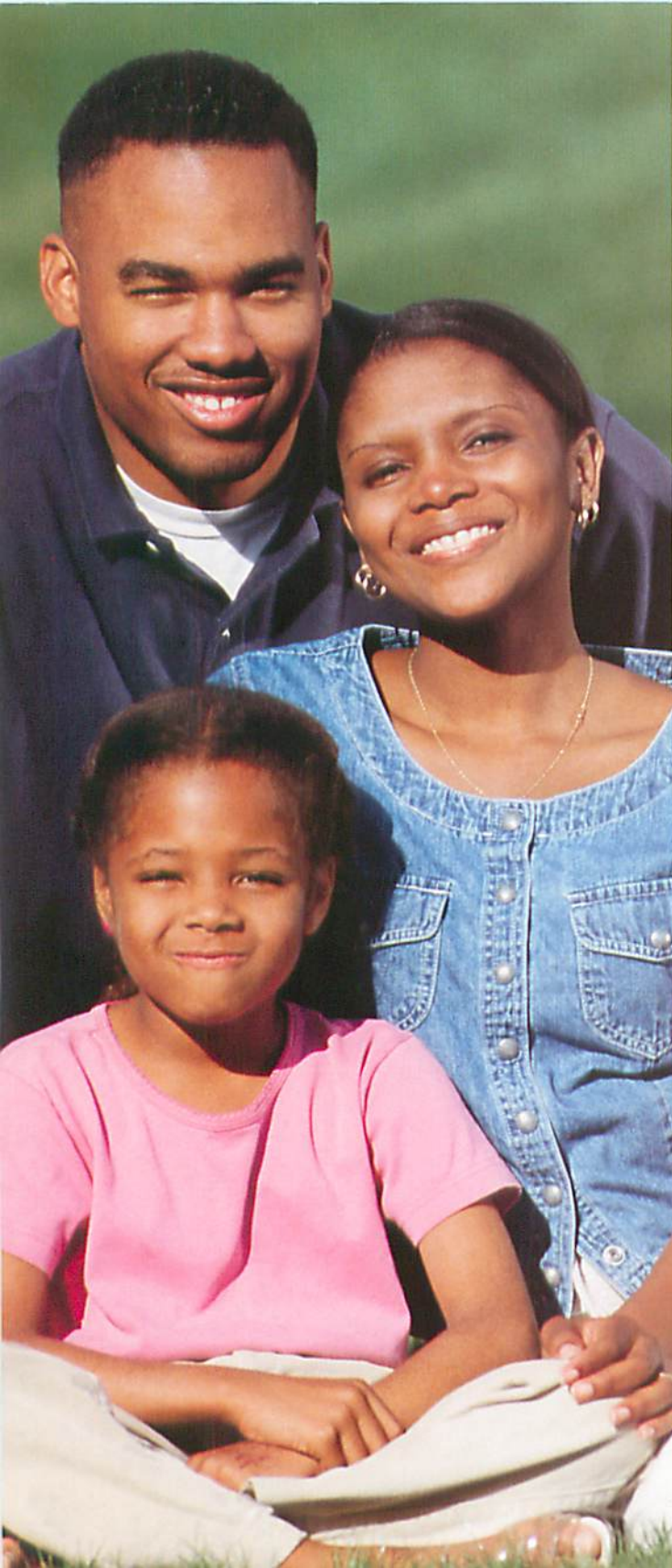
For the Father

Part of being a man is doing the right thing. Making sure that a child grows up with two legal parents helps provide a secure future. When an unmarried man voluntarily acknowledges his fatherhood, he assures his own legal right to:

- Visitation – knowing he may participate in his child's life and upbringing
- Custody — knowing he can request joint or sole custody of the child through the court system if that becomes necessary

***Every child deserves two parents.
Give your baby a good life –
right from the beginning.***





Which means two parents need to sign



You may be thinking, "Of course every baby has a mother and father."

Think again. In the eyes of the law, that's not true. If you are not married, unless both the mother and the father's name are written on the birth certificate, your child does not have two legal parents.

And that's not fair to your baby.

The mother gives birth, so the hospital knows who she is. But how about the father? His name can't go on the baby's birth certificate until he signs a form establishing paternity – which means he is the legal father, no matter where he lives or how he feels about the mother.

It's the right thing to do. Having two legal parents allows a child to grow up with a sense of family identity – not to mention medical, financial and legal benefits. You owe it to your baby to see that two names appear on the birth certificate.

***Because every child deserves two parents.
Especially yours.***