



Establishing Paternity

News & Notes

The Newsletter is Reborn! (no pun intended)

Welcome to the first edition of "Establishing Paternity News & Notes"! Our first issue is debuting during August which is **National Child Support Awareness** month. We will be distributing this newsletter on a semi-annual basis to keep you up to date on the latest information on establishing paternity. This is a reincarnation of "The Paternity Perspective" which you received in the past. Please feel free to pass this along to any other colleagues that may work directly with unmarried parents or deal with paperwork related to paternity and birth certificates. If someone would like to be added to our mailing list please let us know. Finally, if you have any questions or concerns please call or write.

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Publication List
- ☺ Order Form

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A Message from the Deputy Commissioner

Iwould like to extend my appreciation to all of you for the great service you provide to the families of New York. By assisting parents of children born out of wedlock establish legal paternity you are ensuring that child will have a lifelong connection to both parents— a connection that is proven to make a difference in their future success. Again thank you for all of your continued support of the voluntary acknowledgment of paternity program.

Scott Cade

Deputy Commissioner & Director
NYS Division of Child Support Enforcement

New York State
Office of Temporary and
Disability Assistance
Division of Child Support
Enforcement
40 North Pearl Street 13C
Albany, New York 12243

Getting the message out

As you know, regulations require that you give oral and written notice to unwed parents regarding the establishment of paternity. You can accomplish this by discussing the form with each parent or by showing them the AOP video along with having them read the form. The AOP video is just over 10 minutes and covers everything that parents need to know. Many hospitals have their own TV channel where they can add

the video to the regular lineup of educational programming. If this is not an option then it can be played in the patient's room. The video also comes in a Spanish version that is dubbed. Both videos help those who cannot read or write in their own language to understand the process.

To obtain a video please contact
Charlotte Gardner (518) 473-7362 or
charlotte.gardner@otda.state.ny.us

FAQs About AOPs

Q: Can a new parent under the age of 18 sign the AOP?

A: YES

According to NYS statute there is no age restriction.

Q: Do you need to see identification to witness the document?

A: It is **not required**. By law you are witnessing the physical signing of the document only. We encourage you to ask for identification to verify spelling of addresses and names but you **cannot** turn anyone away from

signing the AOP if they do not have proper identification.

Q: Can we add missing information to the AOP after it has been signed and witnessed?

A: No, you cannot alter the legal document in anyway after it has been signed and witnessed. Make sure the document is completed before witnessing.

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Publications

The following are available free of charge from our warehouse. Use the order form on page 5(duplicate as needed). **Materials cannot be sent to PO Boxes.**

Forms:

- **LDSS 4418** Acknowledgment of Paternity for Upstate Hospitals
- **LDSS 4418-NYC** Acknowledgment of Paternity for NYC Hospitals
- **LDSS 4418-NYC S** Acknowledgment of Paternity for NYC Spanish
- **LDSS 4418-NYC AR** Acknowledgment of Paternity for NYC Arabic
- **LDSS 4418-NYC R** Acknowledgment of Paternity for NYC Russian
- **LDSS 4418-NYC C** Acknowledgment of Paternity for NYC French Creole
- **LDSS 4418-NYC M** Acknowledgment of Paternity for NYC Mandarin Chinese
- **LDSS 4418-NYC BO** Acknowledgment of Paternity for NYC Bosnian
- **LDSS 4418-NYC UR** Acknowledgment of Paternity for NYC Urdu
- **LDSS 4418-NYC VI** Acknowledgment of Paternity for NYC Vietnamese

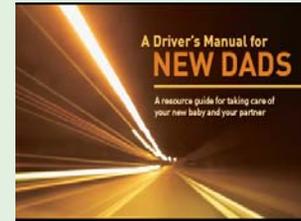
Note: Translated forms are for reference only all documentation must be submitted in **English**.

Brochures:

- **Pub 4719** "Establishing Paternity. What You Should Know"
- **Pub 4719S** "Establishing Paternity. What You Should Know" Spanish
- **Pub 4720** "Teen Parents and the Law"
- **Pub 4720S** "Teen Parents and the Law" Spanish
- **Pub 4901** New Dads Manual
- **Pub 4901S** New Dads Manual Spanish

New Dads Manual

We have developed a booklet for new fathers. This publication is geared toward helping dads understand what is going on with their partner and how the baby is developing. It also promotes prenatal visits, supporting their partners and basic care of their newborn. The booklet also lists New York state specific resources for new dads. Please share this information with the OB/GYN departments in your hospitals and any health clinics you maybe affiliated with. This information is available at no cost via our warehouse (see publication list page 3). If you have any other resources you'd like to see developed for new parents please share your ideas with us!



New Video/DVD

During the next few months we will be working on updating the current Hospital Based Establishing Paternity Video. A focus group will be formed to determine what elements should be included or changed in the new edition. We will also be looking for input on the actual script and volunteers to portray extras on screen. If you would like to become a member of this focus group etc. please contact Charlotte Gardner at (518) 473-7362 or charlotte.gardner@otda.state.ny.us

Multi-lingual Resources

New York State service providers need to adapt to changing demographics. Currently there is an ever increasing need for translated materials so that we can serve families more effectively in our communities. For several years we have offered materials in English, Spanish, Russian, French Creole, Arabic, and Mandarin Chinese. The following languages were recently added Bosnian, Vietnamese, and Urdu. As migration and societal trends evolve more resources will be developed. Please remember that these translations are for reference purposes only



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Onsite Presentations

Our Outreach Division is here to support your staff and offer new staff/refresher presentations to hospitals across the state. We would especially like to present at birth registry regional meetings. If you are interested in setting up a specific date please contact us.

in New York City

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any county outside of New York City

Charlotte Gardner

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A New Arrival



In the coming months we will be adding a section to our website specifically for birthing hospitals. This section will have resources that you can share with your staff and patients www.newyorkchildsupport.com. Stay tuned!

If you have any questions or comments you would like to share or have an idea for a future issue of this semi-annual newsletter please contact:

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"Temporary Assistance for Permanent Change"



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Q: Can hospital staff ask parents questions about marital status?

A: According to the NYS Department of Health, hospital staff should not ask about marital status in an effort to obtain birth certificate information. However, hospital staff should explain that if a mother is married, then her husband is presumed to be the father, and if she is not married, then the AOP must be completed or the parents must go to court to establish paternity in order for the father's name to appear on the birth certificate.

Q: What circumstances prohibit completing an acknowledgment?

A:

- ⇒ If the birth mother was married anytime during her pregnancy.
- ⇒ When there is any doubt as to the identity of the biological father.
- ⇒ When the parents have a court "order of filiation."