



Paternity News & Notes

Welcome to the first "green" edition of our newsletter. In an effort to be fiscally and environmentally responsible the newsletter will no longer be printed and mailed to hospitals.

A Message from the Deputy Commissioner

On behalf of the Center for Child Well-Being I want to thank all of you for the role you played in assisting unmarried parents to establish paternity in 2008. Approximately 60,000 parents established paternity in hospitals with the support of dedicated professionals such as you. Keep up the great work!

Scott E. Cade
Deputy Commissioner
Center for Child Well-Being

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Spotlight on Success-Wyckoff Hospital

This is a new section where we will feature hospitals and birthing centers that have excelled at providing Acknowledgment of Paternity services to unwed parents.

Wyckoff Hospital is located in Brooklyn, New York. They have an average of 140 eligible births per month, and in 2007, approximately 80% of unmarried parents established paternity during their hospital stay. Their birth registrar's office is open 7 days a week, with their staff of two employees trading weekend days. The birth registrar visit each patient's room and if the patient is not there, or if the potential father is not there, they leave notes to get back in touch with them. In addition to personal visits, the Acknowledgment of Paternity video is played on their public access channel for the parents to watch at any time.

Wyckoff hospital staff attributes success to the decision to have one staff member focus solely on completing the procedure in addition to inviting the fathers to come and speak with them individually.

Getting the Message Out

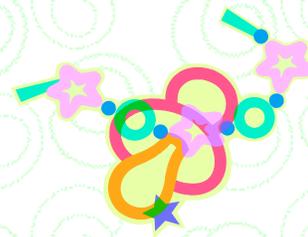


In the Fall we debuted the Provider's webpage, <https://newyorkchildsupport.com/providers.html> and now we have a new addition to the site. You can now watch the video and read the transcript of the Acknowledgment of Paternity video online! You can also view the PDF of all of our new brochures including the one on Establishing Paternity.

We have received a lot of positive feedback regarding our webpage from service providers. Please share any ideas you may have regarding improvements for the newsletter or webpage by sending a note to charlotte.gardner@otda.state.ny.us.

We look forward to working with you during 2009!

FAQs About AOPs



Q: An unmarried mom didn't want to add the biological father's name to the baby's birth certificate when the baby was born but now that the child is two years old she would like to have his name added. What should she do?

A: Both the biological father and mother need to sign the Acknowledgment of Paternity form and submit it to the local vital records office. Alternatively, if the biological father no longer wishes to sign the AOP form, the mother may file a paternity establishment petition in Family Court.

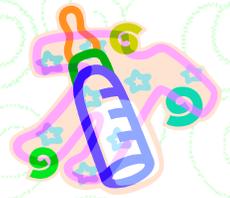
Q: The hospital I work at just went through a merger. Do I need to do anything different regarding the acknowledgment of paternity process?

A: You should make sure that you are labeling the forms with the correct PFI number. The PFI number is established by the New York State Health department and may have changed because of the merger/acquisition. Also confirm with the local vital records office that they are using the correct PFI number so that your hospital is credited with the appropriate number of acknowledged births.

Q: What if the mom tells you she doesn't want the father's name on the birth certificate but he wants to sign the AOP form?

A: The AOP process is voluntary, so if one party doesn't want to participate then the other party must petition the family court to establish paternity.

Outreach 101



Our Outreach Division is here to support your staff at hospitals across the State. At this time, we can offer onsite presentations in New York City and on a regional basis. In addition to onsite, we can conduct Question & Answer (Q & A) sessions via conference call to any hospital around the state. To set up specific times/dates please contact one of the following:

in New York City

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New Arrivals

We have translated the Establishing Paternity brochure into Russian, Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic to provide increased accessibility for families. These are to be used in addition to the translated AOP forms. All brochures can be ordered via our website.

Remember to bookmark the webpage

<https://newyorkchildsupport.com/providers.html>

***Note:** Translated AOP forms are for reference only. Only **English** forms are accepted to establish paternity in New York State.

New York State
Office of Temporary and Disability
Assistance

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"Temporary Assistance For Permanent Change"