Do you have Questions about Paternity?

Scan the QR code below to access the Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgement Video.

TN Department of Human Services

Common Questions for Establishing Paternity

What if I want a DNA test?

If either of you are unsure, you should **not** sign the Voluntary Acknowledgement of Paternity (VAoP) form. You may wish to:

- Contact your local child support office for assistance with establishing paternity and financial support;
- Have a DNA test conducted through a private lab; or
- Conduct a private home DNA test (Note: Most courts will not accept home tests to establish paternity, but this may be an option for your own knowledge.)

Will I have to pay child support if I sign the VAoP form?

Signing the VAoP form does **not** mean that you will automatically be made to pay child support.

If we don't want to establish a child support order, why should we sign?

Acknowledging paternity does a lot more than allow for child support. For example:

- It allows the child to know his/her father
- It allows the father to add the child to his health insurance
- It gives the child rights to veteran and Social Security benefits
- It gives the father legal rights to pursue custody and/or visitation

What if I change my mind after I sign the VAoP?

Parents can rescind (cancel) their VAoP if they file a Recission form with the Tennessee Office of Vital Records within 60 days of the last notarized signature. This means the Rescission form must be completed, signed, notarized, and received at the Office of Vital Records in Nashville, by the 60th day along with the required fee. After the 60 days, it will take a court order to remove the father from the birth certificate. The Rescission form is available online from the Tennessee Department of Health Office Of Vital Records Applications page. Parents can get a printed Rescission form at their local health department, child support office or the Office of Vital Records. There is a $15.00 fee for rescinding (canceling) a VAoP. If the parent cannot afford the $15.00 fee, they can request an Affidavit of Indigency form. If they meet the waiver requirements, the fee will be waived. When Vital Records accepts the rescission form, they will notify the other parent. The father's name and information concerning the father will be removed from the child's birth certificate. The child's surname will be changed to the mother's legal surname at the time of the child's birth, if applicable.

Contact the hospital birth clerk or the TN Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity (TN VAoP) program 1-833-772-TDHS (8347) for additional information.

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