

# *Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity*

## **Instructions for Unmarried Parents**

*If you are not married or have not been married within  
the 300 days prior to birth and  
You want the name of your baby's father  
on the birth certificate –  
You and the father must follow these steps:*

1. **Fill out a *Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity (VAoP)* form at the hospital.**
2. **Have valid picture identification** (like a driver's license).
3. **Social Security numbers** must be given if you have one.
4. If either you or the father is **under 18 years of age**, you must have the consent of one of your parents or a *legal* guardian. The parent or legal guardian must be present when you sign the *VAoP* form. This person must **also** sign the form and have identification.
5. **Decide what last name you want to give your baby.** The baby's last name must be a part of your legal name, your maiden name or the father's legal name.

- If you have any questions about completing this form, call the Tennessee Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity **(TN VAoP) Hotline: 1-800-457-2165**.
- If the *VAoP* form is not completed at the hospital, the father's name and information cannot go on the original birth certificate.
- To add the father's name at a later date, you can call your local health department or child support office for an appointment to complete the *Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity (VAoP)* form.