

## Married Mothers

If a mother is legally married to anyone at the time of conception or birth or was cohabitating with anyone who could establish parentage even when she is separated from her husband, she is ineligible to complete a CS 909, Declaration of Paternity.

Marital presumption establishes paternity in the husband, even if he is not the biological father. A Court must determine paternity in such a case.

## Hours of Service

Monday-Friday  
8 a.m to 5 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday  
Closed

## Contact POP

Email: [askpop@dcss.ca.gov](mailto:askpop@dcss.ca.gov)  
Phone: (916) 464-1982  
Fax: (916) 464-5898

## Contact a Local Child Support Agency

Phone: (866) 901-3212  
TTY: (866) 399-4096



For more information on POP, please visit the California Child Support website at [www.childsup.ca.gov](http://www.childsup.ca.gov).

# Legal Paternity is Easy to Establish Without Going to Court - and It's Free!



**PATERNITY  
OPPORTUNITY  
PROGRAM** 

California Child Support

## Program History

The California Paternity Opportunity Program (POP) was established in 1995 to comply with the federal mandate to have a simple system for an unmarried mother and biological father to establish paternity. For more than twenty-three (23) years, POP has helped over 3.2 million parents establish legal paternity in California.

## What is POP?

POP is a voluntary program for an **unmarried mother and biological father** to establish legal paternity *free of charge*. This significantly decreases the time and money required to establish legal paternity through the lengthy and expensive court process. A signed CS 909, Declaration of Paternity, has the same force and effect as a Judgement for Paternity issued by a court and is also recognized every U.S. state.

## What is Paternity?

Paternity, as defined by DCSS, is a legal determination of fatherhood.

## Benefits of Establishing Paternity

- Social Security Benefits
- Military Benefits
- Inheritance Rights
- Access to Medical Information
- Health Insurance
- Survivor's Benefits

## Availability of POP

- Hospitals (at the time of birth)
- Local Child Support Agency
- Local Registrar of Births and Deaths
- Courts
- County Welfare Department

## Completing a Declaration of Paternity

A Declaration of Paternity cannot be completed prior to a child's birth. Only a military dad with orders that prevent him from being present at his child's birth can sign a Declaration of Paternity prior to the birth. A Declaration of Paternity can be completed *anytime after* the child's birth.

## Who Can Witness a Declaration of Paternity?

- Family Law Facilitator - Local Court
- Hospital of Birth
- Local Registrar of Births and Deaths
- Notary Public
- Local Child Support Agency
- County Welfare Department

## Birth Certificate

Filing a Declaration of Paternity will not change the name on a birth certificate automatically. Please contact the California Department of Public Health, Office of Vital Records to obtain additional information regarding the process to change the name listed on a birth certificate. You may contact the Office of Vital Records at (916) 445-2684 or by emailing [VRmail@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:VRmail@cdph.ca.gov).

## Genetic Testing

Please contact your county's local child support agency at **(866) 901-3212** to request information regarding genetic testing.