

Completing the PA Form

General Instructions

The *Paternity Acknowledgment* form is an integral part of the birth registration process and is a permanent legal record. It is important to remember that the information given on the *Paternity Acknowledgment* will be used to create a new birth certificate for the child.

Discrepancies or alterations on the form may substantially alter the form's legal integrity. For example, what appears today to be a minor cross-out could be used seventy-five years from now to eliminate inheritance rights of a grandchild of these parents because the court questions when such a change was made. These forms, as with birth certificates, must stand alone through time as substantial legal documents. Basic rules for completing the forms are listed below:

- ▶ **No line items should be left blank**
- ▶ The forms must be typed or printed in permanent black or blue-black, unfading ink.
- ▶ Cross-outs, white-out, correction tape or correcting typewriters are unacceptable. As with other alterations to the form, it is impossible to determine if these corrections were made when the form was prepared or at a later date. Also, information typed over correction tape may be easily removed from the paper even by the friction of a sheet of paper on top of it.
- ▶ All information requested on the form should be provided. In some very limited cases, complete information may be unavailable. For example, a parent born in Thailand may know the country but not more specific information about his or her birth place. A response of "unknown" would be acceptable in such a case. Also, if a parent has no Social Security Number, it is acceptable to write "None" in the space for the number.
- ▶ Paternity forms will not be accepted if parents do not provide the necessary information. If parents refuse to provide certain information, the paternity form is considered incomplete and the father will not be added to the child's birth certificate. In rare cases, if information is not obtainable, exceptions will be made. However, no paternity form will be accepted by the State Office of Vital Records if it is missing father's name, address, date of birth, or witnessed signature.
- ▶ It is important to remember that this is a voluntary program and if parents wish to participate they must provide all necessary information. (If you have questions about specific cases, you should contact the Georgia Paternity Program office at 1-866-296-8262 or 706-721-7001.)
- ▶ Federal law mandates collection of social security numbers for this program. Parents should be advised that they are required to provide social security numbers if they have them.
- ▶ It is the ultimate responsibility of the witness that appropriate identification has been provided by the parents. A valid picture ID is appropriate identification. For example, a school, work, military, foreign, driver's license, or state ID from any state may be accepted.
- ▶ Minor parents may sign the form; however, one of the minor's parents (or guardian) should sign and date the form as well.
- ▶ Both parents must complete the same form.

PATERNITY ACKNOWLEDGMENT – STATE OF GEORGIA
 (Print or type all information in black or blue permanent ink. This form may be copied.)
 State File Number: _____ Facility: _____

PLEASE NOTE: This form cannot be completed if the mother was married to anyone within the 10 months prior to the birth of this child or if, for any other reason, there is another father of this child listed on the child's birth certificate.

_____ is the biological (natural) father of the child born to
FATHER'S | First Name _____ Middle _____ Last / Generation (Jr., III, etc) _____

_____ on the _____ day of _____, 20____ in
MOTHER'S | First Name _____ Middle _____ Last _____ Maiden Name _____

_____ County, Georgia. We are requesting to have the name of the biological father placed on the birth certificate and that the child be named:

_____ **CHILD'S** | First Name _____ Middle _____ Last Name /Generation _____

Mother's Information: Address _____
 Number and Street Name _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Date of Birth: _____ Social Security Number _____

Employer _____ Employer's Address _____

Father's Information: Address _____
 Number and Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Date of Birth: _____ State of Birth _____ Social Security Number _____

Employer _____ Employer's Address _____

I understand that either parent may withdraw this paternity acknowledgment, without penalty, within 60 days from the date of his/her signature. I have been informed of my rights and responsibilities as explained on the reverse side of this form.

 Mother's Signature

 Father's Signature

Acknowledged to be true and correct before me on
 this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Acknowledged to be true and correct before me on
 this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Notary Public

Notary Public

My term expires on _____, 20____

My term expires on _____, 20____

Identification presented by Mother _____

Identification presented by Father _____

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF LEGITIMATION

We, the mother and biological father, voluntarily consent and agree that the relationship between the child and the father shall be considered legitimate for all purposes under law pursuant to O.C.G.A. §19-7-21.1. **Note: This section does not apply if the child is over one year of age at the time this document is signed.**

 Mother's Signature

 Father's Signature

Acknowledged to be true and correct before me on
 this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Acknowledged to be true and correct before me on
 this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Notary Public

Notary Public

My term expires on _____, 20____

My term expires on _____, 20____

Identification presented by Mother _____

Identification presented by Father _____

NOTE: By signing this document, you are stating that you have read and understood all of its provisions, including those printed on the reverse side of this document and that the facts stated on this document are true. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §31-10-31, anyone making a false statement on this document may go to prison for up to five years and fined up to \$10,000. Photo ID is required of all individuals signing this document.

Purpose

The Paternity Acknowledgment (PA) is a document which has two main purposes. It is used to add a father to a child's birth record, and it can also be used in furtherance of efforts to legitimate the relationship between the father and the child.

Restrictions

A PA cannot be used if the mother of the child was married to anyone within 10 months prior to the birth of this child or, if for any other reason, there is another father listed on this child's birth certificate. If the mother was married during this time frame, or if another father is listed on the birth record, court action will be necessary to establish paternity, amend the birth record, and establish legitimation.

Paternity Acknowledgment Section

Once filed with the State Office of Vital Records, the PA helps establish the father and child relationship. It is a voluntary agreement between the mother and the biological father to add the father's name to the birth record. The child's name can also be changed if agreed upon by both mother and father.

Acknowledgment of Legitimation Section

This section of the document is a voluntary declaration that the mother and biological father consent and agree that the relationship between the child and father shall be considered legitimate for all purposes under the law according to O.C.G.A. §19-7-21.1. This could assist the father and child to inherit from each other. It may also assist the child to receive social security benefits from the father, if needed. While this acknowledgment does not establish any right of visitation or custody, the form assists the father to have standing in court regarding visitation and custody issues. **Note: This section does not apply if the child is over one year of age at the time this document is signed.**

Rescission

Either the mother or biological father has 60 days from the date of his/her signature to request to rescind this PA. Rescission of this document will rescind both the PA Section and the Acknowledgement of Legitimation Section. Please be advised that the rescission will not remove the father from the birth certificate. You must obtain a court order to remove the father from the birth certificate or make further amendments to the certificate. After the 60 day rescission period has ended, this signed document may constitute a legal determination of paternity and can only be challenged in a court of law on the basis of fraud, duress, or material mistake of fact, with the burden of proof on the person challenging the acknowledgment.

Rights and Responsibilities

1. Signing the PA is strictly voluntary.
2. The mother should not sign the PA unless she is confident that the father signing is the biological father of this child.
3. The father should not sign the PA unless he is confident that he is the biological father of this child.
4. By signing this document, it will be presumed by law that the male signer is the biological father of this child, and the child's birth certificate will reflect this fact.
5. Signing the Acknowledgement of Legitimation portion of this document signifies an agreement to voluntarily legitimate the relationship between the child and the acknowledged father for all purposes under the law according to O.C.G.A. §19-7-21.1.
6. Either the mother or father who signs this document have 60 days from the date of signing to rescind or cancel this acknowledgment.
7. Any change made to the birth record in the future regarding the child's name, mother's name, or father's name will require a court order.

Filing Instructions

The PA, once completed and signed in the presence of a notary public, will be forwarded to the State Office of Vital Records where it will be entered into the State Putative Father Registry and considered a Vital Record. If both parents do not sign a PA before leaving the hospital or birthing facility, only the mother's name and child's name will be entered on the birth certificate. The PA may be signed before a notary at a later date and mailed to the State Office of Vital Records. Upon receipt of an acceptable PA form, the certificate of birth will be amended to enter the name of the father and change the child's name, if requested. A certified copy of the PA can be requested by the parents from the State Vital Records Office for a \$10 fee. Mail the request to: Georgia Vital Records, 2600 Skyland Drive, Atlanta, GA 30319. For information on how to rescind a signed PA, contact either the state or a local county vital records office.