



# STATE OF TEXAS ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PATERNITY

**This is a legal document. Type or Print in black ink. Parents are to be given a copy of this completed document.**

We declare under penalty of perjury that \_\_\_\_\_  
Biological Father's first middle last name

is the biological father of \_\_\_\_\_  
Child's first middle last name

born on \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_, in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
m m d d y y y y city county state

to \_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's first middle last name maiden name if different

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_  
Father's date of birth social security number address city state zip code

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's date of birth social security number address city state zip code

We further declare under penalty of perjury that:

- We have been given written and oral notice of: the benefits of having paternity established; the availability of paternity establishment and child support services; and the legal consequences of, the rights and responsibilities of, and the alternative to signing this Acknowledgment.
- No other Acknowledgment of Paternity form naming another man as the biological father of this child has been filed.
- There is no court order naming another man as the biological father of this child.
- A genetic test has not determined that another man is the biological father of this child.

Fill one circle by the correct statement from EACH of the following:

<input type="radio"/> There <b>has not</b> been genetic testing of the man listed above to determine if he is the biological father of this child.	<b>OR</b>	<input type="radio"/> Genetic testing <b>has</b> determined that the man listed above is the biological father of this child.
<input type="radio"/> The mother <b>was not</b> married to someone other than the biological father at the time of the child's birth or within 300 days prior to the child's date of birth, or there is a court order that states that the man the mother was married to is not the father of the child, and during the first two years of the child's life, no man continuously lived with the child and represented the child as his own.	<b>OR</b>	<input type="radio"/> The mother <b>was</b> married to someone other than the biological father at the time of the child's birth or during the 300 days before the child's birth or during the first two years of the child's life, a man continuously lived with the child and represented the child as his own; and that man has completed the Denial of Paternity below or has a Denial of Paternity filed with the Vital Statistics Unit.

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Signature of Biological Father date Full Signature of Mother date

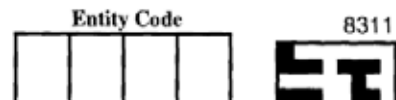
\*\*\*\*\*  
**Denial of Paternity** (only required if "mother **was** married to someone other than the biological father or if, during the child's first two years of life, a man continuously lived with the child and represented the child as his own" is checked.)

We declare under penalty of perjury that \_\_\_\_\_,  
Presumed Father's first middle last name

the presumed father of the child, is not the biological father. We understand that filing of this denial with an acknowledgment removes the presumed father's legal duty to support the child and terminates his right of custody or visitation with the child.

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Signature of Presumed Father date Full Signature of Mother date

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_  
Presumed Father's date of birth social security number Presumed Father's address city state zip code



WARNING: This is a governmental document. Texas Penal Code, Section 37.10, specifies penalties for making false entries or providing false information in this document.

**This is a legal document.** If you are not sure that the man named in this Acknowledgment is the biological father of the child, you should **NOT** sign this document. You may want to get a genetic test. **The biological father who signs this Acknowledgment becomes the legal father of the child when this document is filed with the Department of State Health Services, Texas Vital Statistics**

Signing this legal document gives you certain rights and responsibilities. Signing this document is voluntary. You should consult an attorney if you have any concerns about signing this document. This document requires an Entity Code completed in the lower right corner by an individual certified by the Office of the Attorney General to administer Acknowledgments of Paternity.

### Benefits, Right, and Responsibilities of Paternity

Establishing parentage makes it easier for a child to receive benefits such as social security, military and veteran's benefits, health care coverage and life insurance, as well as inheritance.

**This Acknowledgment has the same effect as a court order establishing paternity.** Both parents have parental right and duties as provided by state law. Either parent has the right to seek primary custody of the child. A parent not living with the child may have the right to visit and maintain a relationship with the child, either as both parents agree or as ordered by a court. By signing this Acknowledgment, you may be ordered to pay child support and medical support.

This document may be completed before the birth of the child, at the time of birth, or at any time after the birth of the child prior to any court hearing in a proceeding involving the child. If this document is signed before the birth of the child, it is binding for any child born no later than 300 days after the signature date on this document. When this Acknowledgment is properly filed with Texas Vital Statistics, it creates a parent-child relationship between the man and child. Establishment of paternity is required for a father's name to be entered on a birth certificate.

**Child Support services can be obtained through the Office of the Attorney General, Child Support Division or by hiring an attorney.**

### Denial of Paternity

If a child's mother is married to a man other than the biological father at the time of birth or within 300 days of the ending of a marriage (by a finalized divorce,) the (ex) husband is presumed to be the legal father. To complete this document for a child that has a presumed father, the presumed father must deny paternity by completing the Denial of Paternity section. The mother must agree that the presumed father is not the biological father by also signing the denial section. The acknowledgment section must also be completed by the biological father and mother, or the denial will not be accepted. Upon the filing of this document, the presumed father is legally determined not to be the father of the child. His legal duty to support the child is removed. Likewise, his legal right of custody or visitation with the child is terminated.

### Change of Mind

If any party to this document changes his/her mind about acknowledging or denying paternity, he/she may file a Rescission of Acknowledgment of Paternity (VS-158) to rescind this document. The Rescission of Acknowledgment of Paternity must be filed within sixty (60) days after this legal document is filed with Texas Vital Statistics or before the date a proceeding related to the child is initiated, whichever occurs first. After sixty (60) days, or the date a proceeding for the child was initiated, a lawsuit is required to challenge this document. Fraud, duress, or material mistake of fact in signing this form must be proven during the lawsuit.

### If a Party is a Minor

Minors are authorized to complete the Acknowledgment of Paternity without parental consent. Minors are allowed to rescind or challenge this document in the same procedures as persons eighteen (18) or older.

All parties must receive oral notice of the above information before completing this Acknowledgment. You can receive oral notice of the information by calling 1-866-255-2006 and selecting option 1, "Notice of Rights and Responsibilities of a Parent."

If you have questions, you may call the Paternity Opportunity Program at 1-866-255-2006.