



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**VOLUNTARY ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PARENTAGE**

**This is a legal document. Print or type in permanent black ink.**

We voluntarily sign this acknowledgment to establish the child's paternity. We understand that this acknowledgment will be filed with the child's birth certificate and the names of both parents will be on the child's birth certificate. We further understand that this acknowledgment is a legal document with the same binding effect as a court judgment of paternity.

We acknowledge that we are the biological parents of the following CHILD:		Social Security # (if assigned):						
Full name to appear on the birth certificate:		First, Middle, Last						
If amending, name as it now appears:		First, Middle, Last						
Birthplace:	City/Town	State	Date of Birth (Month spelled out, Day, Year)			Sex (M/F)		
<b>MOTHER</b>		Social Security #						
Full name to appear on the birth certificate:		First, Middle, Last			Surname at my Birth or Adoption			
Residence:	No. & Street Name	City/Town	State	Zip Code				
Date of Birth (Month spelled out, Day, Year)		Birthplace:	City/Town	State (Country if not U.S.)				
<i>Check one:</i> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I swear or affirm that when this child was born or within 300 days of the child's birth, I was <u>not</u> married.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I swear or affirm that when this child was born or conceived, I was married to someone other than the father of this child. I understand that this form will not add the father to the birth certificate unless accompanied by an <i>Affidavit of Non-Paternity</i> or <i>Affidavit of Non-Parentage</i> signed by that spouse or unless the court has determined that the spouse to whom I was married is not the child's legal parent.</p>								
<p>I understand that signing this form is voluntary and that paternity is established as of the date that this form is completed by both parents and properly filed at the offices of the city or town clerk where the child was born or the State Registry of Vital Records and Statistics. I have read and understand the information on this form, and on the <i>Notice of Rights and Responsibilities: Voluntary Acknowledgment of Parentage</i>, including the information on the process for rescinding (canceling) this acknowledgment of paternity. I understand the rights and responsibilities that result when both parents sign this form. I hereby swear or affirm under the penalties of perjury that the information above is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.</p>								
<i>On this _____ day of _____, _____ before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared _____ who proved to me through satisfactory evidence of identification, which was or were _____ to be the person whose name is _____</i>								
Signature of Mother								
Form read in		Notary Public						
<b>FATHER</b>		Social Security #						
Full name to appear on the birth certificate:		First, Middle, Last			Surname at my Birth or Adoption			
Residence:	No. & Street Name	City/Town	State	Zip Code				
Date of Birth (Month spelled out, Day, Year)		Birthplace:	City/Town	State (Country if not U.S.)				
<p>I understand that signing this form is voluntary and that paternity is established as of the date that this form is completed by both parents and properly filed at the offices of the city or town clerk where the child was born or the State Registry of Vital Records and Statistics. I have read and understand the information on this form, and on the <i>Notice of Rights and Responsibilities: Voluntary Acknowledgment of Parentage</i>, including the information on the process for rescinding (canceling) this acknowledgment of paternity. I understand the rights and responsibilities that result when both parents sign this form. I hereby swear or affirm under the penalties of perjury that the information above is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.</p>								
<i>On this _____ day of _____, _____ before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared _____ who proved to me through satisfactory evidence of identification, which was or were _____ to be the person whose name is _____</i>								
Signature of Father								
Form read in		Notary Public						

## **Notice of Rights and Responsibilities: Voluntary Acknowledgment of Parentage**

### **What Does It Mean If You Sign this Form?**

The “Voluntary Acknowledgment of Parentage” form establishes your child’s paternity, after both parents have signed it and the State Registry of Vital Records and Statistics has accepted it for legal registration. “Paternity” is the legal relationship between a child and father. “Voluntary” means that you both freely choose to sign this form. If a child’s parents are not married to each other, paternity is established only by:

1. Completing an acknowledgment form at the hospital where the child was born prior to birth certificate registration, or
2. Completing the form at the State Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, the clerk’s office for the city or town where the child was born, or at the Probate and Family Court, or
3. Filing a paternity action in court.

Otherwise, your child may have no father under the law, and the father’s name will not go on the birth certificate.

#### **DO NOT SIGN THIS FORM**

#### **IF EITHER OF YOU IS NOT SURE, OR HAS ANY DOUBT WHO THE FATHER IS.**

- If either of you is not sure who the father is, have paternity testing and get the results before signing the acknowledgment.

#### **DO NOT SIGN THIS FORM IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND IT**

- If you have any questions about the legal consequences of signing the form, consult an attorney before signing.
- When you sign this form, you will be confirming that you have read and understand both the acknowledgment form and this Notice of Rights and Responsibilities.
- If you prefer to read the form in another language, ask for a translated form or a translator to assist you.

Paternity is established as of the date both parents have signed the acknowledgment, if it is properly completed and filed. Sixty (60) days or less after both parents sign the form, it is as binding as a court judgment of paternity. The acknowledgment may be the basis for court orders of child support, custody or visitation.

If, after signing, either of you believes that the man named on this form is not the father, one of you must file a case in Probate and Family Court within 60 days of the signing, requesting the court to rescind (cancel) the acknowledgment.

If you are a party to a court hearing about the child, such as a custody or child support hearing, during the 60 day period after signing, and you want to rescind (cancel) the acknowledgment, you must say so in the hearing and file a case in Probate and Family Court asking to rescind before the end of the 60 day period. Otherwise, your rights to rescind the acknowledgment will expire (run out) at the time of the hearing.

After the acknowledgment form becomes like a court judgment of paternity, you can challenge it in court within one year only on limited grounds of fraud, duress or material mistake of fact.

### **What Are Your Rights and Responsibilities As Parents?**

1. **FINANCIAL SUPPORT.** Both parents must support their child from birth. If your child does not live with you, a court may order you to pay child support.
2. **VISITATION.** A parent who does not live with the child may have the right to visit and establish a relationship with the child under an agreement of the parents or a court order.
3. **CUSTODY.** The mother has custody of a child born to unmarried parents unless otherwise ordered by the court.

### **How Will You and Your Child Benefit If You Sign This Form?**

1. The father’s name will appear on the child’s birth certificate.
2. It is easier to get a child support order should the need arise.
3. It will be easier for your child to get medical information about both of you and to be included in available health care coverage.
4. It will be easier for your child to receive benefits such as dependent or survivor’s benefits from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs or from the Social Security Administration or inherit through both parents.

For questions regarding paternity establishment, paternity testing or child support, contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Child Support Enforcement Division at (800) 332-2733. On the internet: [mass.gov/cse](http://mass.gov/cse)

For questions regarding birth registration, contact the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics at (617) 740-2600. On the internet: [mass.gov/dph/rvrs](http://mass.gov/dph/rvrs)