

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF  
PATERNITY BY THE  
NATURAL PARENT**

If the parents are unmarried after the child's birth, the mother and natural father can establish paternity, if they complete the Acknowledgment of Paternity form (DH Form 432). This form may be obtained by visiting [www.floridahealth.gov](http://www.floridahealth.gov).

When both parents sign the acknowledgment of Paternity they are swearing that they are the natural parents of the child.

**BENEFITS FOR THE  
CHILD AND PARENTS**

- Identity and security
- Support from the child's father and mother
- Access to the father's medical benefits
- Access to the father's medical history
- Access to the survivor's benefits and rights of inheritance



**Findlay Stokes Law Firm**

**Real Service**

**Real Integrity**

**Real Results**

For additional information regarding paternity, child support, and family law related issues, including divorce contact our office at 954-986-1778

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# **How to Establish Paternity & Child Support**



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## **ESTABLISHING PATERNITY**

**&**

## **CHILD SUPPORT IN COURT**



### **1. File a Petition To Establish Paternity**

- You will need to file the Petition Establishing Paternity and Other Relief in the family court of the home state and county where the child and the other parent resides.

### **2. Serve the Summons & Petition on the Custodial Parent.**

-The Custodial Parent has 20 days to file a written response to the allegations that asserted in the Petition with the Court.

### **3. How will the Court determine Paternity?**

-The Court will determine that the Petitioner is the biological parent if the custodial parent agrees with the allegations contain within the Petition. Otherwise, the Petitioner may request a DNA test to establish paternity.

### **4. Establishing a Parenting Plan**

-Once it is established that a person is the biological parent the Court will establish a parenting plan. A parenting plan will outline the rights and responsibilities of both parents with respect to the minor child and establish a timesharing schedule, which may include weekdays, weekends and holidays timesharing schedules.

### **5. Child Support Order**

-The court will establish child support. The amount that one parent will be required to pay the other parent is determined by the state's child support guidelines. The factors to be considered are both parents income, the timesharing schedule, child care

## **The Importance of Establishing Paternity**

Parenting a child comes with special tasks of great responsibility and time. Establishing Paternity serves as a way for a person to establish a legal relationship with a child (ren).

The only people who can bring a paternity case to court are the mother of the child, the "alleged father," that is, the man who believes he is the biological father of the child or who has been identified by another as being the father of the child, a legal representative acting on behalf of the child or The Florida Department of Revenue.

Establishing paternity can be extremely important because it gives the biological parents and child( ren) many opportunities. This includes a parent child relationship, shared parental responsibilities, parenting plan, time-

