

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
Vital Records & Health Data Development Section
AFFIDAVIT OF PARENTAGE
Instructions

This form can be used to establish the parentage of a child and may be used to have information on the father of a child added to the certificate of birth for the child. This affidavit may be completed at the time of the child's birth or at any other time after the birth.

It is intended for use by couples who were not married at the time the child was conceived nor at the time of birth. In instances where the mother was married to someone other than the father when the child was conceived or delivered, a court ruling of her husband's nonpaternity is important in order to first establish that the child is not the husband's child.

Completion of this affidavit is voluntary. It indicates the parents wish to acknowledge parentage of a child. The form may be used by parents who were not married when the child was born or when the child was conceived to legally establish their parentage of a child.

Proper completion of the form is very important. Forms that are not properly completed will not be accepted for filing. Among other things, the form must be legible, must be typed or printed in ink, must be signed by both parents, and must be properly notarized. At a minimum, the following items must be provided: the full names of the child, the mother and the father, the date and place of the child's birth, the address of each parent and the birth places of each parent.

There is no fee for filing the affidavit with the Central Paternity Registry. Once filed, copies of the affidavit can be obtained by either parent, by the child or to a guardian or legal representative of a parent or the child. Certified copies of the affidavit are available from the central registry for \$15.00 (additional copies are \$5.00 each) and can be requested at the time of filing.

Adding a Father to the Birth Certificate

Establishing Paternity at the Hospital - If this affidavit is completed at the time of birth and provided to hospital staff before the birth certificate is prepared and filed, the birth certificate will be completed to include the father with no need for a separate application or fee. When completed at the time of birth and used as the basis for recording the father on the original certificate of birth, hospital staff must forward the original affidavit, along with the original birth certificate, to the local registrar. The local registrar will forward the affidavit to the Central Paternity Registry for final filing.

Establishing Paternity After Leaving the Hospital - Birth certificates are not automatically changed when an affidavit is filed, except when completed in the hospital at the time of the birth and before the birth has been registered. Changes to registered birth records can be requested based upon a properly completed affidavit and an Application to Add a Father on a Michigan Birth Record. If the affidavit is going to be used to add the father's name to a Michigan birth record, the affidavit **SHOULD NOT BE MAILED TO THE CENTRAL PATERNITY REGISTRY**, but should be mailed with the application to add the father to the address listed on the application. A birth record can be changed to reflect the father listed on the affidavit if no other man is recorded on the record as the child's father. Should a conflict exist, a court determination of paternity may become necessary.

There is a fee for each birth record change, as is noted on the correction application. Applications to correct a birth certificate are available from the office of the county clerk, the State Vital Records office recorded message (517) 335-8656, or can be downloaded from the Michigan Department of Community Health Web site at:
www.michigan.gov/mdch

To request a certified copy or to change the birth record, mail the completed Affidavit along with an application to Add a Father to:

VITAL RECORDS CHANGES
P.O. Box 30721
Lansing, Michigan 48909

To file the Affidavit to establish paternity without changing the birth record, mail to:

Central Paternity Registry
Vital Records & Health Data Development Section
Michigan Department of Community Health
P.O. Box 30691
Lansing, Michigan 48909

By authority of Act 305 of 1996
Completion of this Form is Voluntary