

Delaware Putative Father Registry

Subject to limited exceptions described herein, a man who desires to be notified of a proceeding for adoption or termination of parental rights regarding a child that he may have fathered must register in the registry of paternity before the birth of the child or within 30 days after the birth of the child. Registering on a timely basis will require the party pursuing termination of parental rights to notify the man of the filing of the legal action. Failure to register on a timely basis will enable the court to terminate parental rights of the man (if any) without further notice.

Registration is not required if a child is over 1 year of age, if a person has established a parent-child relationship through other legal means, or a parent commences an action to adjudicate his parentage before the court has terminated parental rights.

Registration can be accomplished by filing a form with the Delaware Office of Vital Statistics. Parties who wish to run a search of the registry should, after the passage of 30 days from birth, file a form entitled "Request to Search Registry of Paternity" with Delaware Vital Statistics located at 417 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. The cost for a party requesting the search is \$25. Questions should be directed to Vital Statistics at 302-744-4549. See also <https://delcode.delaware.gov/title13/c008/sc04/index.html>