

Where can I get the forms?

Contact the New York State Putative Father Registry or visit the New York State Office of Children and Family Services website at: <https://www.ocfs.ny.gov/search/docs.php> to request or print the following forms:

OCFS-2724, *Notice of Intent to Claim Paternity of a Child Born Out of Wedlock*

OCFS-2723, *Notice of Intent to Claim Parentage of a Child Born Out of Wedlock*

OCFS-3780, *Instrument to Acknowledge Paternity of a Child Born Out of Wedlock*

You can also contact your [local department of social services](#).

Form **LDSS-5171**, *Notice Regarding Legal Rights and the Consequences of Signing the Acknowledgment of Parentage*, is available at hospitals, social services agencies, the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

How do I file the forms with the Putative Father Registry?

Mail completed forms to:

New York State
Office of Children and Family Services
Putative Father Registry
52 Washington Street, Rm 332 North
Rensselaer, NY 12144



Office of Children and Family Services

Capital View Office Park
52 Washington Street
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Visit our website at:
www.ocfs.ny.gov

To report child abuse and maltreatment, call:
1-800-342-3720

For information on the
Abandoned Infant Protection Act, call:
1-866-505-SAFE (7233)

For the phone number of your local
Adult Protective Services unit,
call the Adult Services Help Line at
the Human Services Call Center:
1-844-697-3505

For foster care and adoption
information, call:
1-800-345-KIDS (5437)

OCFS HEARS Family Line (Help, Empower,
Advocate, Reassure and Support)
1-888-55HEARS (1-888-554-3277)
Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

For information on services for the blind,
call:
1-866-871-3000
1-866-871-6000 (TDD)

"... promoting the safety, permanency and well-being of our children, families, and communities. ..."

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, New York State Office of Children and Family Services will make this material available in an appropriate format upon request.

Pub. 5040 (09/2023)

What Unwed Parents Need to Know



New York State Putative Father Registry

What is the New York State Putative Father Registry?

Originally, the Putative Father Registry was a confidential record of fathers of children born out of wedlock. In 2021, it was expanded to include information on parentage of a child born out of wedlock. The registry maintains names and addresses of people who

1. filed a notice to claim paternity or parentage of a child,
2. signed an acknowledgment of paternity or parentage of a child, or
3. have been determined by a court to be the father or parent of the child.

Fathers or parents listed on the registry have the right to receive legal notice of court proceedings involving the child, which include foster care, guardianship, custody, and, in some circumstances, adoption of the child. Additionally, the child will be entitled to inherit assets from the registered father or parent.

The courts, local departments of social services, and voluntary authorized agencies in New York state use the Putative Father Registry to search for the name and address of fathers or parents of a child born out of wedlock in order to notify parents of court proceedings impacting the custody of the child and to identify persons whose consent is required for the adoption of a child in foster care.

(The results of a search cannot be given to another person, except by court order.)

Do I need to register with the Putative Father Registry if I signed the child's birth certificate?

Surprisingly, signing your name on the birth certificate does not automatically make you the legal father.

Completing and filing forms with the Putative Father Registry or filing a petition asking to be found by the court as the child's father in a timely manner can impact whether the father's consent to the adoption of the child in foster care is required.

What if I am not sure I am the father?

If you are not sure that you are the father, do not sign or submit any of the forms listed here. Instead, you may choose to file a court petition to have the court determine paternity. When the case goes to court, the court will order genetic testing to determine if you are the father of the child. If you are the father, you will establish certain rights to the child and may be required to provide support until the child is 21 years of age.

How do I register with the Putative Father Registry?

If you believe you are the father or parent of a child and are not married to the mother, you can complete the following forms:

BEFORE or AFTER the child's birth:

Father: OCFS-2724, *Notice of Intent to Claim Paternity of a Child Born Out of Wedlock*

Parent, but NOT the Father: OCFS-2723, *Notice of Intent to Claim Parentage of a Child Born Out of Wedlock*

On the **OCFS-2724** OR **OCFS-2723** form,

you will need to provide:

- your name and address,
- the mother's name and address,
- the child's name (if already known), and
- birth date (or birth year if date is unknown).

The **OCFS-2724** or **OCFS-2723** forms must be filed with the Putative Father Registry. The form does not need to be notarized, and the mother is not notified.

AFTER the child's birth:

A father can complete **OCFS-3780**, *Instrument to Acknowledge Paternity of a Child Born Out of Wedlock*.

On the **OCFS-3780** form, you will need to provide:

- your name and address;
- the mother's name and address;
- and the child's name, birth date and place of birth.

The **OCFS-3780** must be notarized by a notary public and filed with the Putative Father Registry. The mother will receive a certified letter from the Putative Father Registry stating that the father has filed an instrument to acknowledge paternity.

A father or other parent can use **LDSS-5171**, *Notice Regarding Legal Rights and the Consequences of Signing the Acknowledgment of Parentage*.

If you fill out the **LDSS-5171** form at the hospital or at a social services agency soon after the birth of the child, the form will be filed with the registrar of the county where the child was born and where the birth certificate is filed.