

How is Paternity Established?

There are three ways that paternity can be determined:

1. Genetic Testing
2. Court Order
3. Both parents can sign a Declaration of Paternity

What is a Declaration of Paternity?

Through the Paternity Opportunity Program, unmarried parents can get a chance to sign a legal document (Declaration of Paternity) saying who the legal father is.

This information has been provided by the

Why Is Paternity so important?

For the Child:

- Legal record of the identity of the child's parents.
- Father's name on their birth certificate.
- Information on family medical history.
- Emotional benefits of knowing his or her father.
- Financial support from both parents that includes child support, social security, veteran's benefits, military allowances, and inheritance.
- Health or Life insurance from either parent, if available.

For the Mother:

- Sharing parental responsibilities.
- Information about family medical history.
- Improved financial security for the child.
- Access to medical insurance, if available.

For the Father:

- Legal establishment of parental rights.
- Father's name on the birth certificate.
- Right to seek court ordered custody or visitation



This brochure is provided through the "It Happened 2me, It Could Happen 2u2", a collaborative teen parenting project between the Kern County Department of Child Support Services and the Kern High School District's Career Resource Department.

Teen and 20 Something PARENT'S

CHILD SUPPORT

INFORMATION

IT HAPPENED 2ME
IT COULD HAPPEN 2U2

What is Child Support?

Child Support is the money one parent pays to the other parent for the care and support of their child.

Who can open a Child Support case?

Either parent can go to the Child Support Office and request to open a child support case by completing an application for Child Support Services, by mail, phone or online at:
1300 18th St. Bakersfield, CA 93301
Phone: 1-866-901-3212
www.kerncountychildsupportservices.com

-or-

The Department of Human Services automatically sends the Child Support Agency a request to open a Child Support case, if you are receiving cash or public assistance.

What are the next steps after my Child Support case is opened?

When your child support office receives a request to open a case: The parent that does not live with the child will be served a set of legal documents that say they are being sued for the following:

- Paternity
- Child Support
- Medical Support
- The amount of money you should be able to pay based on your income.

If the parent disagrees with any part of the documentation the parent has 30 days to file an answer with the Child Support office and/or the court requesting

- Genetic testing to prove they are the father.
- Information about their income and health insurance

What is Child Support Enforcement?

Both parents are obligated to care for their child/children. Your child support agency has several ways to collect child support for your child:

- Withholding money from your paychecks
- Take some or all of:
 - Income taxes-Federal or State
 - Unemployment benefits
 - Worker's Compensation
 - Disability Benefits
- Bank levies
- License Suspensions
- Passport Denial
- Occupational license suspension

How long do I have to pay Child Support?

In the State of California, you have to pay child support until the child has either turned 18 and/or graduated high school.