



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
VOLUNTARY ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PARENTAGE

This is a legal document. Print or type in permanent black ink.

We voluntarily sign this acknowledgment to establish the child's parentage. We understand that this acknowledgment will be filed with the child's birth certificate and the names of both parents will be on the child's birth certificate. We further understand that this acknowledgment is a legal document with the same binding effect as a court judgment of parentage and that we will assume all of the rights and responsibilities of legal parentage.

We acknowledge that we are the parents of the following CHILD Full name to appear on the birth certificate:		Social Security # (if assigned):			
First name		Middle Name		Last Name	
If amending, First Name as it now appears		Middle Name as it now appears		Last name as it now appears	
Birthplace:	City/Town	State	Date of Birth (Month spelled out, Day, Year)		Sex
BIRTH PARENT (Full name on child's birth certificate)		Social Security #		Gender	
First Name		Middle Name		Last Name	
Residence: No. & Street Name		City/Town		State	
Date of Birth (Month spelled out, Day, Year)		Birthplace: City/Town		State (Country if not U.S.)	
PARENT (Full name on child's birth certificate)		Social Security #		Gender	
First Name		Middle Name		Last Name	
Residence: No. & Street Name		City/Town		State	
Date of Birth (Month spelled out, Day, Year)		Birthplace: City/Town		State (Country if not U.S.)	
<p>Before signing, you must read the <i>Notice of Rights and Responsibilities: Voluntary Acknowledgment of Parentage</i> for more information about this form. This form must be signed by the birth parent and one of the following: a genetic parent, an intended parent of a child born through assisted reproduction other than surrogacy, or a presumed parent (i.e., the spouse of the birth parent, or a person who resided with the child and held out the child as the person's child). This form may not be used if the birth parent is or was married within 300 days of the birth, unless the spouse has filed an <i>Affidavit of Non-Parentage</i>, nor for cases where this child has been adopted, nor for cases of surrogacy.</p> <p>If you have any questions about whether to sign this form, you should consult with a lawyer before signing. A <i>Voluntary Acknowledgment of Parentage</i> is the equivalent of a court judgment of parentage, and parentage is a considerable, life-long responsibility.</p> <p>I understand that signing this form is voluntary and that parentage is established as of the date that this form is completed by both parents and properly filed at the offices of the city or town clerk where the child was born or the State Registry of Vital Records and Statistics. I have read and understand the information on this form AND on the <i>Notice of Rights and Responsibilities: Voluntary Acknowledgment of Parentage</i>, including the information on the process for rescinding (canceling) this acknowledgement. I understand the rights and responsibilities that result when both parents sign this form. I hereby swear or affirm under the penalties of perjury that the information above is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.</p>					
Signature of Parent		Date		Signature of Parent	
Form read in (language):				Form read in (language):	
On this _____ day of _____, _____ before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared _____		On this _____ day of _____, _____ before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared _____		On this _____ day of _____, _____ before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared _____	
who proved to me through satisfactory evidence of identification, which was or were _____		who proved to me through satisfactory evidence of identification, which was or were _____		who proved to me through satisfactory evidence of identification, which was or were _____	
to be the person whose name is signed on this document and who swore or affirmed to me that the contents of the document are truthful and accurate to the best of their knowledge and belief and that they signed this form voluntarily for its stated purpose.		to be the person whose name is signed on this document and who swore or affirmed to me that the contents of the document are truthful and accurate to the best of their knowledge and belief and that they signed this form voluntarily for its stated purpose.		to be the person whose name is signed on this document and who swore or affirmed to me that the contents of the document are truthful and accurate to the best of their knowledge and belief and that they signed this form voluntarily for its stated purpose.	
Notary Public				Notary Public	

Notice of Rights and Responsibilities: Voluntary Acknowledgment of Parentage

By signing a *Voluntary Acknowledgment of Parentage* (VAP), a person is established as a legal parent, and the child's birth certificate is issued or amended to reflect that legal parentage. Properly executed, a VAP has the binding force of a court order and is treated as valid in all states.

Who Can Sign a Voluntary Acknowledgment of Parentage?

The birth parent and one other parent (i.e., the person establishing parentage through the VAP) must sign the form in the presence of a notary. The other parent can be the genetic parent, an intended parent of a child born through assisted reproduction other than surrogacy, or a presumed parent (e.g., the spouse of the birth parent or a person who resided with the child and held out the child as the person's child).

Signing a VAP form is voluntary, and it can be done at the hospital soon after birth or at a later time through the city or town where the child was born or through the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics.

When can I not establish parentage through a Voluntary Acknowledgment of Parentage?

When the listed parent is not the child's birth parent (e.g., the child was adopted by the listed parent), another parent may only establish parentage through a court adjudication. Parentage also cannot be established through a VAP if there is a third person who is a presumed parent, unless that person has filed an *Affidavit of Non-Parentage*. For example, if a genetic parent is to be listed instead of the birth parent's spouse, both a VAP and an *Affidavit of Non-Parentage* must be completed. Finally, an intended parent of a child born through surrogacy should use a court process, not the VAP.

What if I am not sure about signing this form?

DO NOT SIGN THIS FORM IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBTS ABOUT THE PARENTAGE OF THIS CHILD.
DO NOT SIGN THIS FORM IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND IT.

If you have any questions about whether to sign a VAP form, you should consult with a lawyer before signing. A VAP is the equivalent of a court judgment of parentage, and parentage is a considerable, life-long responsibility. If you prefer to read the form in another language, ask for a translated form or a translator to assist you.

Why Is My Social Security Number Required?

Pursuant to the Federal Privacy Act of 1974, you are hereby notified that disclosure of your social security number is mandatory. Disclosure of the social security number is required pursuant to state law, M.G.L. c. 111 §24B, M.G.L. c. 46 §3D, M.G.L. c. 209C §2, M.G.L. c. 119A §14 and federal law, Section 125 of P.L. 100-485. Social security number is used to identify the parent(s) and to enforce child support orders.

Can this form be canceled?

Parentage is established as of the date the parents have signed the acknowledgment, if it is properly completed and filed. Sixty (60) days or less after both parents sign the form, it is as binding as a court judgment of parentage. The acknowledgment may be the basis for court orders of child support, custody or parenting time.

If, after signing, either of you believes that an individual named on this form is not the legal parent, one of you must file a case in Probate and Family Court within 60 days of the signing, requesting the court to rescind (cancel) the acknowledgment. If you are a party to a court hearing about the child, such as a custody or child support hearing, during the 60 day period after signing, and you want to rescind (cancel) the acknowledgment, you must say so in the hearing and file a case in Probate and Family Court asking to rescind before the end of the 60 day period. Otherwise, your rights to rescind the acknowledgment will expire (run out) at the time of the hearing.

After the acknowledgment form becomes like a court judgment of parentage, you can challenge it in court within one year only on limited grounds of fraud, duress or material mistake of fact by filing a case in Family and Probate Court.

What Are Your Rights and Responsibilities As Parents?

1. **FINANCIAL SUPPORT.** Both parents must support their child from birth. If your child does not live with you, a court may order you to pay child support.
2. **PARENTING TIME.** A parent who does not live with the child may have the right to parenting time and establish a relationship with the child under an agreement of the parents or a court order.
3. **CUSTODY.** The birth parent (if applicable) has custody of a child born to unmarried parents unless otherwise ordered by the court.

How Will You And Your Child Benefit If You Sign This Form?

1. The legal parent(s) names will appear on the child's birth certificate.
2. It is easier to get a child support order should the need arise.
3. It will be easier for your child to receive benefits such as health insurance, dependent or survivor's benefits from the Department of Veterans' Affairs or from the Social Security Administration or inherit through both parents.

For questions regarding establishment of parentage, genetic marker testing or child support, contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Child Support Services Division at (800) 332-2733. On the internet: www.mass.gov/css

For questions regarding birth registration, contact the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics at (617) 740-2600. On the internet: mass.gov/dph/rvrs