



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS
P.O. Box 210
Jacksonville, Florida 32231-0042
Phone: 904-359-6900 ext. 1081
[http://www.doh.state.fl.us/planning_eval/vital_statistics/
Putative.htm](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/planning_eval/vital_statistics/Putative.htm).

We also offer a

Commemorative Birth Certificate
Commemorative Marriage Certificate

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Other Vital Statistics Services

Certified Copies of Florida Events:
Birth, Death, Fetal Death, Marriage, Divorce
Questions? Telephone (904) 359-6900, Ext. 9000

Or write to:

Commemorative Certificates
Office of Vital Statistics
Post Office Box 210
Jacksonville, Florida 32231-0042

DH Form 771 (3/06)
Stock Number: 5730-771-0150-1

Putative Father Registry



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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THE INFORMATION PROVIDED HEREIN IS NOT
DESIGNED TO BE LEGAL ADVICE. QUESTIONS
CONCERNING PATERNITY, PRESUMPTION OF PATERNITY,
OR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITY OF A PARENT SHOULD
BE DIRECTED TO AN ATTORNEY.

PUTATIVE FATHER REGISTRY— BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

SECTION 63.054, FLORIDA STATUTES HAS PROVIDED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUTATIVE FATHER REGISTRY IN THE OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS (OVS), FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. The purpose of the registry is to permit a man who believes he may have fathered a child to demonstrate his commitment to the responsibilities of parenthood, independent of the mother and protect his rights as a parent in the event the child is placed for adoption.

If an unmarried biological father fails to take the actions that are available to him to establish a relationship with his child, his parental interest may be lost entirely, or greatly diminished, by his failure to timely comply with the available legal steps to substantiate a parental interest.

A MAN IS PRESUMED TO BE THE BIOLOGICAL FATHER IF:

- ❖ The minor was conceived or born while the father was married to the mother;
- ❖ The minor is his child by adoption;
- ❖ The minor has been established by court proceeding to be his child;
- ❖ He has filed an affidavit of paternity by acknowledging paternity in conjunction with the child's mother at the hospital at the time of the child's birth: or
- ❖ By subsequently filing an acknowledgement of paternity in conjunction with the child's mother with the State Office of Vital Statistics both of which constitutes the establishment of paternity as provided for in Section 742.10, Florida Statutes.



Information INFORMATION FOR COMPLETING CLAIM OF PATERNITY FORM.

- ❖ **A CLAIM OF PATERNITY** may be filed any time prior to the birth; however, a claim of paternity may not be filed after the date a petition is filed for termination of parental rights.
- ❖ **BY FILING DH FORM 1965, CLAIM OF PATERNITY**, the registrant expressly consents to submit to DNA testing upon the request of any party, the registrant, or the adoption entity with respect to the child referenced in the claim of paternity. The registrant may, at any time prior to the birth of the child for whom paternity is claimed, execute a notarized written revocation of the claim of paternity previously filed & upon such revocation, the claim of paternity shall be deemed null & void.
- ❖ **IF THE COURT DETERMINES THAT A REGISTRANT IS NOT THE FATHER** of the child, the court shall order the department to remove the registrant's name from the registry.
- ❖ **IT IS THE OBLIGATION OF THE REGISTRANT** or, if designated an agent or representative, to notify and update the information contained in the registry in Vital Statistics of any change of address or change in designation of an agent or representative.



- ❖ **VITAL STATISTICS WILL NOTIFY THE REGISTRANT**, in writing, of their receipt of a Claim of Paternity or a Revocation filed on a Claim of Paternity.
- ❖ **PURSUANT TO S. 63.541, FLORIDA STATUTES**, information in the registry is confidential and may only be released to:
 - a) an adoption entity, upon filing of a request for a diligent search of the Florida Putative Father Registry in connection with the planned adoption of a child,
 - b) the registrant unmarried biological father upon receipt of a notarized request for a copy of his registry entry and
 - c) the court, upon issuance of a court order concerning a petitioner acting pro se in an action under this chapter.
- ❖ **FLORIDA LAW REQUIRES A FEE** of \$9.00 for filing and indexing a claim of paternity.