



What should I do?



Genetic Testing vs. Paternity Acknowledgement Should I sign the Paternity Affidavit or ask for Genetic Testing?



Paternity Affidavit - By signing this legal document, a man voluntarily acknowledges that he is the father. He assumes the parental duty of support which may be enforced through a child support order. Signing the Paternity Affidavit is a method of establishing paternity. However, without genetic testing there may still be uncertainty or doubt about your child's biological father.

Genetic Testing - This is a scientific DNA test, which determines if there is a parent child relationship. Genetic testing leaves you with scientific proof of your baby's biological father.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How much does Genetic Testing Cost?

A: If the Paternity Affidavit has not been signed, testing may be free. Contact your Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) for more information.

Q: What if the affidavit is already signed and now we'd like testing?

A: If the Paternity Affidavit has been signed, you have 60 days from the date of the last signature to request genetic testing. After 60 days a court order is required to order genetic testing.

Q: Who can request Genetic Testing?

A: Either parent can request testing through the Child Support Enforcement Agency.

Q: How is Genetic Testing done?

A: Testing is performed using the buccal swab method, which is a simple, pain free mouth swab of the mother, child and alleged father(s).

Q: How soon can testing be done on my baby?

A: Testing can be done as early as the day the child is born.

Q: Who has legal custody of my newborn baby?

A: According to Ohio law, an unmarried mother who gives birth has legal custody of her child.

Q: Once paternity has been established, what is the next step?

A: The Child Support Enforcement Agency can establish a child support and medical support order, as well as address the child's surname (last name).

Q: How long does it take for testing results to come back?

A: Results are returned to the agency in approximately 2 weeks. A paternity order has to be issued by the agency or court. Once that is completed, parties are notified of the results by mail.

Having a new baby can be an exciting and emotional time for both the mother and father. The County Child Support Enforcement Agency encourages parents to understand the process, get the facts and choose a method that both parents can trust and rely on in the years ahead regarding Paternity Establishment!



Keep in Mind

- ◆ Services are provided in the county in which the child resides
- ◆ Genetic testing is usually free, but not all of the time.