



# HAVING A BABY?

If you are not married, there are some important things you should know about adding the father's name to your child's birth certificate.



- The father's name is not automatically added to the birth certificate unless a Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity (VAP) form is completed.
- Acknowledging paternity using the VAP form is **FREE** and can be completed before leaving the hospital.
- DNA tests are not necessary if you both know he is the father.
- You **will not** lose your benefits (such as Medicaid or TANF) if you complete a VAP.
- Even if you name your baby after the father, he is not a legal father unless you both complete the VAP.

If you have additional questions about voluntarily acknowledging paternity, please refer to our website at [www.childsupport.illinois.gov](http://www.childsupport.illinois.gov).

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# FATHERS,

**If you are not married to your child's mother,  
ESTABLISH PATERNITY TODAY!**



- In the State of Illinois, a father's name is not automatically added to the birth certificate unless a **Voluntary acknowledgement of Paternity (VAP)** form is completed by you and the mother.
- It's a free and easy service for unmarried parents. Hospital staff will help both parents complete the paternity forms after the baby is born.
- If your name is not listed as the father on the child's birth certificate, even if the baby is named after you, you are not considered to be the child's **"legal" father**.

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