



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
STIPULATION FOR VOLUNTARY ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PARENTAGE**

*THIS IS A LEGAL DOCUMENT. PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE IN BLACK INK.*

We acknowledge that we are the biological parents of the following child: *(Name of child as it appears on the birth certificate.)*

\_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Middle Last Sex (M/F)

who was born in \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Place of Birth) City/Town/State (Date of Birth) Month - spelled out Day Year

We sign this acknowledgment to establish the paternity of this child. We understand that this acknowledgment is a legal document and that it will have the same binding effect as a judgment of paternity. This acknowledgment may be filed with a court and can form the basis of a judgment for the support of the child named above. G.L. c.209C, Section 11. This acknowledgment also may be used to amend the birth certificate to reflect the names of both parents of this child. G.L. c. 46, Section 13.

*(Name of mother as it appears on the birth certificate.)* **MOTHER**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Middle Last Maiden

Residence \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_  
 No. & Street Name City State Zip Social Security # - -

Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_  
 City or Town State Country Date of Birth Mo. Day Yr.

Check one:  
 I state under oath that when this child was born or conceived, I was not married.  
 I state under oath that when this child was born or conceived, I was married to someone other than the father of this child. I understand that this form will not be effective **unless** it is accompanied by an *Affidavit of Denial of Paternity* signed by the man to whom I was married or **unless** the court has determined that the man to whom I was married is not the father of this child.

I understand that signing this form establishes paternity. I have been informed of my right to request blood or genetic marker tests but I am giving up that right or I have taken and received the results of the blood or genetic marker tests. The information above is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I have read and understand the information on **both sides** of this form.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Mother

Then personally appeared before me the above-named \_\_\_\_\_ and being duly sworn under penalties of perjury acknowledged the foregoing to be her free act and deed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19 \_\_\_\_.

**FORM READ IN** \_\_\_\_\_  
 LANGUAGE

Notary Public: \_\_\_\_\_ My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Name of father as it will appear on the birth certificate.)* **FATHER**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Middle Last My Mother's Maiden Name

Residence \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_  
 No. & Street Name City State Zip Social Security # - -

Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_ \ \_\_\_\_\_  
 City or Town State Country Date of Birth Mo. Day Yr.

I understand that signing this form establishes paternity. I have been informed of my right to request blood or genetic marker tests but I am giving up that right or I have taken and received the results of the blood or genetic marker tests. The information above is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I have read and understand the information on **both sides** of this form.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Father

Then personally appeared before me the above-named \_\_\_\_\_ and being duly sworn under penalties of perjury acknowledged the foregoing to be his free act and deed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19 \_\_\_\_.

**FORM READ IN** \_\_\_\_\_  
 LANGUAGE

Notary Public: \_\_\_\_\_ My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN IF YOU SIGN THIS FORM?

By signing this acknowledgment of parentage, you are establishing your child's legal paternity. Paternity means fatherhood. For parents who are not married to one another, paternity may be established legally only by signing this form or by going to court. Otherwise, your child will have no legal father.

Signing this form is voluntary. Since this form has legal consequences, you may want to consult an attorney before signing.

▶ **Paternity is established on the date both parents sign this form.** You cannot request blood or genetic marker tests later. If you want to have a blood or genetic marker test to verify paternity, do not sign this form until you have received the results of the test. Once signed by both parents and notarized, this form will have the same binding effect as a court judgment of paternity.

This acknowledgment allows a parent to seek a child support order without further court proceedings to establish paternity. This acknowledgment may be filed in court and serve as the basis for orders of custody or visitation.

Since you did not sign this form in the hospital, the father's name will not appear on the birth certificate until the birth certificate is amended. If you want to add the father's name to the birth certificate, you must complete this *Stipulation for Voluntary Acknowledgment of Parentage*. You must file the completed form with the court. You must then get a certified copy of this form from the court and file it with the city or town clerk's office where the child was born to amend the child's birth certificate. The court will send this form to the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics.

This acknowledgment is not a public record. It will be available only to the parents and child named on this form, the child's legal guardian or legal representative, or government officials in the conduct of their official duties.

If another man's name is already on the birth certificate and you want to amend the birth certificate to include the father named on this form, you must file this form with the court.

## WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS PARENTS?

Both parents are required by law to support their child from birth. If your child does not live with you, you may be ordered by the court to pay child support until the child's eighteenth birthday, or beyond in some circumstances. A parent who does not live with the child may have the right to visit and establish a relationship with the child as you both agree or as ordered by the court.

For children born of unmarried parents, the mother has custody of the child unless otherwise ordered by the court.

## HOW WILL YOUR CHILD BENEFIT IF YOU SIGN THIS FORM?

Every child has the right to know his or her mother and father and benefit from a relationship with both parents.

Your child has a right to financial support from both of you until age eighteen, or beyond in some circumstances.

It will be easier for your child to learn the medical histories of both parents and to benefit from health care coverage available to you.

It will be easier for your child to receive benefits such as dependent or survivor's benefits from the Veteran's Administration or from the Social Security Administration.

It will be easier for your child to inherit through you.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's Initials

\_\_\_\_\_  
Father's Initials