



Hospital Name

Address City, State, ZIP

Date _____

Dear,

While in the hospital you and the father of the child signed an Acknowledgment of Paternity (AOP). After review by the Division of Vital Records an error was determined, and the certificate was not amended. It is imperative we correct this error immediately. When parents are unmarried, the father's name is not included on the birth certificate unless the AOP form is accepted.

There are many benefits to establishing paternity. Generally, children respond better when given love and support from both parents. Additionally, when paternity is established, the father's name is listed on the birth certificate. Parenting is the responsibility of both the father and the mother. Studies show that this results in a decrease in high risk behavior by the child, and more resources are available when both parents share the responsibility of raising their child. It is important for your child to have a complete medical history, and that is more likely if paternity is established. When paternity is established, the father has the same rights as a father of a child born in marriage. These rights include providing decisions and input that impact the child. When a father dies or is permanently disabled, having a legal father ensures benefits for the child (medical or insurance benefits, inheritance, Social Security, disability or veteran's benefits). When children know they are part of a family, they are likely to be more secure about who they are. Establishing paternity identifies the father's side of the family and encourages relationships with his family.

We hope you will consider coming back in to finalize this important paperwork. Parents can come in separately or together. Please call my office to schedule an appointment for a time that is convenient for you.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,

*(Fathers will need to have a photo ID, (or two witnesses to his identity, other than the child's mother).