



Married Mothers:

If the mother is married, separated or recently divorced, paternity CANNOT be established by voluntarily signing an acknowledgement of paternity (AOP) form.

- According to Virginia law, the husband of the mother is presumed to be the legal father of the child. If the mother is married or was married up to 10 months prior to the birth of the child to someone other than the biological father of the child, paternity must be established in court.
- The mother and her husband's name will appear on the child's birth certificate unless the mother refuses to give the name of husband to the registrar.
- If the biological father is not the husband, the registrar will be unable to add his name to the certificate using the AOP.
- You must contact your local Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court to legally establish paternity for the biological father.

**Please call the Office of Vital records at 804-662-6200
or visit these websites for more information:
www.courts.state.va.us/courts/jdr.html**

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title12/agency5/chapter550/section300/>