

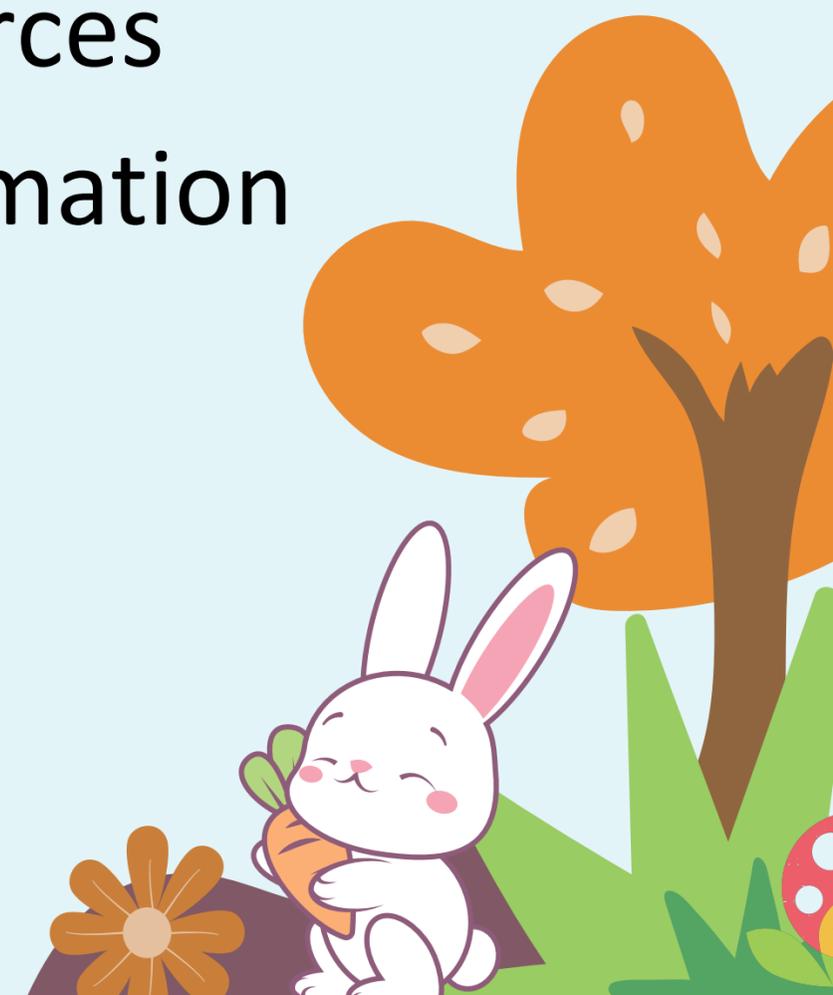
HOP INTO SPRING: ADD THE DAD

2025 Natural Birthing (Midwifery) Training



AGENDA

- Glossary
- Who we are and what we do
- Power of the Judge
- Reasons for Midwives to add dads to the birth certificate at their facility
- Hands on Training
- Married Moms
- VPEP's Resources
- Contact Information



GLOSSARY

- AOP- Acknowledgement of Paternity
- DCSE- Division of Child Support Enforcement
- VPEP- Virginia Paternity Establishment Program
- DSS- Division of Social Services
- OVR- Office of Vital Records
- DOH- Department of Health

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO: VPEP DEFINED

What is “paternity establishment?”

- If a child is born to parents who are not married, the father must be legally identified before a father's name can be added to the child's birth certificate. This process is called establishing paternity.

What is the Virginia Paternity Establishment Program (VPEP)?

- VPEP is a statewide program under the Virginia Department of Social Services, the Division of Child Support Enforcement that provides training and support to hospital staff so they can help unwed parents voluntarily establish paternity for their child.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO: VPEP IS IMPORTANT

Why is VPEP Important to Parents?

- VPEP works to promote voluntary paternity establishment which engages families for success and encourages healthy relationships between parents and children
- VPEP connects families with necessary resources to ensure their children have the best possible beginning
- VPEP educates Virginia's families and communities about the importance and benefits of paternity establishment through partnerships with local agencies and hospitals
- Directly related to TANF money received

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO: VPEP IS IMPORTANT

Why is VPEP Important to Hospitals and Natural Birthing Centers?

- Per the Commonwealth of Virginia Statute, 673.2A1914, “Each public and private birthing hospital in the Commonwealth shall provide unwed parents the opportunity to legally establish the paternity of a child prior to the child’s discharge from the hospital following birth, by means of a voluntary acknowledgement of paternity signed by the mother and the father, under oath.”
- In accordance with Virginia law, VPEP offers training to all professionals who assist parents with paternity establishment (such as Birth Registrars)
- Monetary incentives are provided to all Midwives (\$20 for every AOP completed)
- VPEP’s training and outreach efforts support families in your community

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO: THE VPEP TEAM

VPEP has a team of training, outreach and educational specialists located throughout Virginia. There is a specialist located in each of the following territories:

- Northern Virginia
- Eastern Virginia
- Western Virginia
- Central (Richmond) Virginia
- Our home office is centrally located in Richmond, Virginia



POWER OF THE JUDGE

- The Commonwealth of Virginia gives the birth registrar the power of a judge in a hospital setting to add the birth certificate
- The Acknowledgement of Paternity (AOP) form takes the place of a legal court proceeding
- The AOP is a legal document
- The birth certificate is a person's first legal document

REASONS FOR MIDWIVES TO ADD DADS TO THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE AT THEIR FACILITY

- Receive \$20 per AOP
- Helps to ensure that children are entitled to receive father's military benefits
- Help to ensure that children can access social security benefits if father passes
- Help to ensure that children have access to paternal medical history
- Helping to build a legal connection between the father and the child

REASONS FOR MIDWIVES TO ADD DADS TO THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE AT THEIR FACILITY

- Builds a partnership between the facility and the VPEP program
- Quarterly incentives
- It is free for parents to complete AOP at the facility
- Midwives and doulas will receive training on how to complete the AOP
- Can help with bringing in more parents to give birth to their children at the facility

HANDS ON TRAINING: THE PROCESS

In order to effectively do your job and correctly process AOPs, you must be organized. You can do that by:

- Marking “S” or “M” at the top of the intake forms so that you know to process all single mother paperwork first
- Start with unmarried parents as soon as possible. The best way to do this is to meet with unmarried parents at the beginning of the day to determine when the father will be available
- Keep a running log of daily patients and add legible notes for the person on the next shift to understand; keep a file by room number or patient name by a designated source

HANDS ON TRAINING: THE PROCESS AND YOUR NOTARY

In order to effectively do your job and correctly process AOPs, you must be organized. You can do that by starting with unmarried parents as soon as possible. The best way to do this is to meet with unmarried parents at the beginning of the day to determine when the father will be available.

It is your responsibility to keep your notary certification current. You must also:

- Notarize the form
- Include the business address
- Include your commission date (which expires annually in the month of your birthday)
- Make sure your commission # and notary stamp are valid and legible
- Stamp or seal must be reproducible

It is also important to note that if you have renewed your notary, you should call the Office of Vital Records immediately to ask them to update your renewal on the VVEST system so that AOPs you notarized are not rejected.

HANDS ON TRAINING: REJECTIONS

- Once VPEP or OVR rejects an AOP, it is returned to the birthing facility stating the rejection reason.
- Please note OVR will not contact you regarding an error. They will only contact the parent by mail.
- Once you have made contact with the parent and have corrected the AOP, a corrected copy must be forwarded to VPEP and the original is sent to OVR.

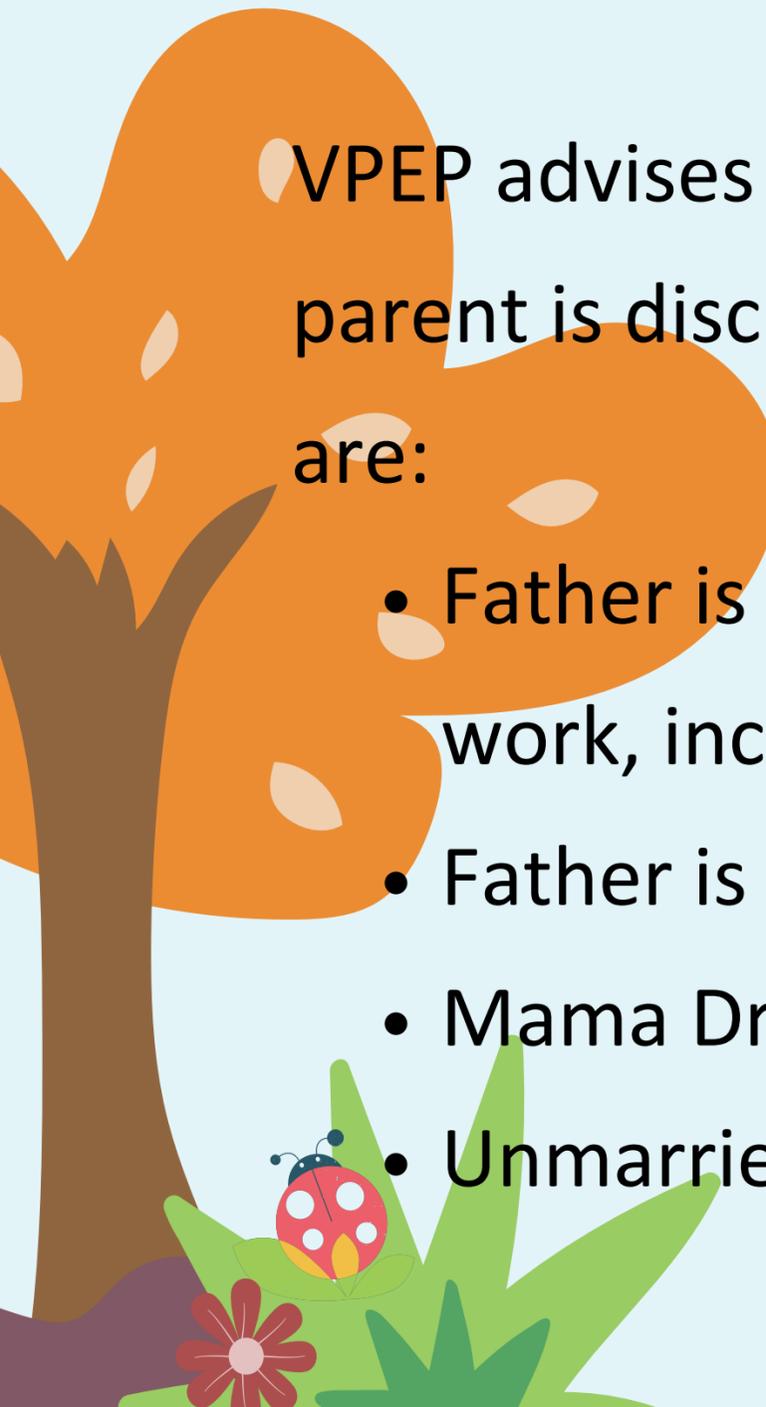
Common Rejection Reasons:

- Missing a signature
- Notary date error (i.e., sworn by date or today's date)
- The mother is married (as determined by OVR after submission)

HANDS ON TRAINING: INVITE PARENTS TO RETURN: “FOLLOW UP PROCESS”

VPEP advises that a birth registrar use the “follow up” process when an unmarried parent is discharged without completing the AOP. Examples of these instances are:

- Father is unavailable while mother is in hospital (military, out of country, at work, incarcerated)
- Father is unsure if he is the father (DNA Testing)
- Mama Drama (mom and baby’s father are fighting)
- Unmarried parents change their mind



MARRIED MOMS

- According to VA Law, the husband of the mother is presumed to be the legal father of the child.
- If the mother 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.
- If the biological father is not the husband, BR cannot legally add his name to the birth certificate using an AOP

VPEP RESOURCES

- Educational Materials
- VPEP Videos-Parent Video-QR codes
- VAPATERNITY.COM
- Quarterly Newsletters
- Social Media
- Follow Up Letters
- Incarcerated Fathers' Support
- Spanish Copy of AOP
- Reasons Dads Don't Sign form
- Quarterly Incentive Program
- QR Code Sticker with recording of Rights and Responsibilities in English and Spanish

Doctors Card

Unmarried Parents: Make A Positive Choice for Your Child Add the Dad

Unmarried parents can easily establish paternity for their child by signing an Acknowledgement of Paternity (AOP) form at the time of birth or after. A few things to know:

- Both parents will need a valid government issued ID as the form must be notarized.
- In order to be recognized as the child's legal father, the biological father must establish paternity.
- If completed at the hospital as part of birth registration, it's free!
- Give your child the same benefits as children

Married Mom Flyer

Did you have a baby and are currently married, separated or recently divorced from someone other than the biological father?

- 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.
- If the biological father is not the husband, the birth registrar will be unable to add his name to the certificate using the AOP.
- 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.
- You must contact your local Circuit Court and/or Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court to legally establish paternity for the biological father.

Please call the Division of Vital records at 804-664-6200 or visit these websites for more information:
www.courts.state.va.us
www.leg1.state.va.us and refer to section 32.1-257., Section D

Infographic

PATERNITY MAKES A "REAL" DIFFERENCE HELP ADD THE DAD!

WHAT IS PATERNITY? Paternity means fatherhood. Establishing paternity is the process of determining a legal father of the child.

UNMARRIED BIRTHS IN U.S.	UNMARRIED BIRTHS IN VIRGINIA
2017 1,533,901 39.8%	2017 34,779 35.00%
2018 1,503,361 39.6%	2018 34,078 35.04%
	2019 32,874 35.6%

UNMARRIED BIRTHS BY EDUCATION LEVEL

- 73% Bachelor Degree
- 13.2% Less than high school or GED
- 14% High school or GED

UNMARRIED BIRTHS BY AGE IN VIRGINIA

- 78% 20-24
- 9% 25-29

UNMARRIED MOTHERS BIRTH RATE BY RACE IN VIRGINIA

- 64% White
- 27% Black
- 6% Hispanic
- 1% Asian
- 14% Other

PATERNITY AFFECTS EVERY CHILD THAT IS BORN TO UNMARRIED PARENTS:

- ✓ If paternity is established there is a legal relationship between father and child and child is allowed all the same benefits/rights as being born to a married couple.
- ✓ Research shows that when fathers are involved with their children they have:
 - Less criminal involvement
 - Less behavioral problems and acting out
 - Less drug usage
 - Less teenage pregnancies
 - Improved school success and a greater likelihood to graduate from high school

CHILDREN WHO GROW UP WITH INVOLVED FATHERS ARE:

- 39% More likely to earn money in school
- 45% More likely to report a grade
- 60% Less likely to be suspended or expelled from school
- 2X As likely to go to college and find stable employment after high school
- 75% Less likely to have a teen birth
- 80% Less likely to spend time in jail

Visit our website at www.vapaternity.com for more information on our program (Demographics data available from the Census Bureau released in December of 2019)

Poster

Unmarried Parents: Make A Positive Choice for Your Child Add the Dad

Unmarried parents can easily establish paternity for their child by signing an Acknowledgement of Paternity (AOP) form at the time of birth or after. A few things to know:

- Both parents will need a valid government issued ID as the form must be notarized.
- In order to be recognized as the child's legal father, the biological father must establish paternity.
- If completed at the hospital as part of birth registration, it's free!
- Give your child the same benefits as children born to married parents.

Virginia Paternity Establishment Program
 Local Phone: 804-285-5826
 Toll Free Phone: 1-866-398-4841
 Email: vapep@veritas-hhs.com
 Website: www.vapaternity.com

Find us on:
 Facebook: Vapaternity
 Twitter: Vapaternity
 Instagram: VA Paternity Establishment

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF VITAL SERVICES
 Toll-Free: 1-800-468-8894 (M-F 7 a.m.-6 p.m.)

Brochure

For information about Paternity Establishment, Contact:
 Virginia Paternity Establishment Program
 Local Phone: 804-285-5826
 Toll-Free Phone: 1-866-398-4841
 Email: vapep@veritas-hhs.com
 Website: www.vapaternity.com

Mailing Address:
 P.O. Box 8270
 Richmond, VA 23226

Find us on:
 Facebook: Vapaternity
 Twitter: Vapaternity
 Instagram: VA Paternity Establishment

TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY FOR CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES:
 Contact your local DCSE office
 Toll-Free: 1-800-468-8894 (M-F, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.)
 or visit their website at www.dss.virginia.gov/family/dcse

The Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) is not involved with the family unless one parent applies for services. If one parent is not sharing the responsibility for supporting the child, the other parent may apply to the Division of Child Support Enforcement for assistance. Applications are available on the website.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
 Toll-Free: 1-800-468-8894 (M-F, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.)
www.dss.virginia.gov/family/dcse

Did you know?

- In the Commonwealth of Virginia, if parents are not legally married at the time of birth, the father's name will not appear on the child's birth certificate unless paternity is established.
- If parents are not legally married at the time of birth, they can establish paternity by signing an Acknowledgement of Paternity (AOP) form as part of the birth registration process or at a later time.
- In order to be recognized as the child's legal father and have rights, the biological father must establish paternity.
- Being the legal father of your child does not mean that you will be required to pay child support, have custody or even visitation. These are separate issues and require court determinations.

Q: What is paternity establishment?
 A: Paternity means legal fatherhood. Establishing paternity is the process of determining a legal father of the child. It is done by signing an Acknowledgement of Paternity (AOP) form at the time of birth or after.

Establish Paternity By:

- AOP: Signing a voluntary AOP form
- DNA: Securing a genetic test through Child Support Enforcement or a certified laboratory
- Court: Contacting the local Juvenile Domestic Relations Court

Q: How do I establish paternity through a voluntary process?
 A: It's simple! If you have an unmarried father, you can establish paternity by signing an Acknowledgement of Paternity (AOP) form at the time of birth or after. The parent must provide a valid ID and sign in the presence of a Notary.

Q: How does establishing paternity affect my child's birth certificate?
 A: If you are married at the time of your child's birth, the father's name will appear on the birth certificate. If you are unmarried, you may establish paternity by signing an AOP form at the time of birth or after. If you establish paternity, the father's name will be added to the birth certificate.

Q: How much does it cost?
 A: If you complete the AOP at the hospital after your child's birth, it is free. If you complete the AOP at a later date, you may contact the Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) for assistance. There is a fee for the AOP form, but it is waived if you are a low-income parent. You may also need your own identification when you sign the AOP. You may also need to pay a fee for the AOP form if you are not a low-income parent.

Q: What are my responsibilities if I establish paternity?
 A: Each parent must understand the Rights and Responsibilities associated with establishing paternity. This information is provided on the AOP form. Please review the Rights and Responsibilities carefully before signing the document.

Q: What if one of the parents change their mind after signing the form?
 A: Parents should think carefully before establishing paternity. If you do change your mind, you have 60 days from the last notated signature date to rescind the AOP. After 60 days, you cannot rescind the AOP. You may contact the Division of Child Support Enforcement or a local Department of Health.

Q: How does establishing paternity help my child?
 The greatest statistical indicator of whether or not an unmarried dad will be involved in his child's life is whether or not he establishes paternity. Give your child the advantage of having a father right from the start!

1 Self Esteem
 Children respond better to love and support from both parents. They gain a sense of belonging and benefit from knowing that both of their parents care for them.

2 Family Identity
 When children know they are part of a family, they are likely to be more involved in school and extracurricular activities. Additionally, a health history is critically important if there are conditions that may prevent any special health problems (illness, genetic, traits, and donor information for transplant).

3 Shared Parenting
 Parenting is the responsibility of both the father and the mother. Children know that this results in a decision to high risk behavior by the child. Finally, these resources are available when both parents share the responsibility of raising their child.

4 Health History
 A child is more likely to have a complete health history if paternity is established. Knowing the father's medical history is important for children and their physicians. Additionally, a health history is critically important if there are conditions that may prevent any special health problems (illness, genetic, traits, and donor information for transplant).

5 Important Rights
 When paternity is established, the child has the same rights as a child born to a married couple. When a father does so, a permanently disabled, hearing a legal father assumes benefits for the child (medical or insurance benefits, inheritance, social security, disability or veterans benefits).

If you are not sure who the father is, you should not complete the AOP form. You may also consider contacting an attorney of your choice or contact your local Juvenile Domestic and Relations court (JDRC) for more information about your situation.

LabCorp
 1-800-742-3944
www.LapCorpDNA.com

DOC Diagnostic
 1-800-362-2368
www.docdiagnostic.com

Paternity Testing Corporation
 1-888-837-8323
www.ptclabs.com

QR Codes in English & Spanish

Scan this code to hear your Rights and Responsibilities

Mother

Father

Escanee este código QR para escuchar sus derechos y responsabilidades

Padre

Madre

E-LIBRARY

- [Useful Forms](#)
- [Scripts To Use](#)
- [Sample Letters](#)
- [State Codes](#)
- [Labels](#)
- [Brochures/Flyers](#)
- [PDF Training](#)

Admission of Paternity
Responsibilities
Parents Do not Sign the AOP
of Vital Records Application

A DAD

child's chances for academic success.

WWW.VAPATERNITY.COM



Quarterly Newsletter

TOP PERFORMERS

2024 Quarter 4

Quarterly Incentives

HOSPITALS WITH AN 80% OR HIGHER PEP RATE

- Wythe County Community Hospital: 93%
- Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital: 88%
- Clinch Valley Medical Center: 88%
- Inova Fair Oaks Hospital: 87%
- Mary Washington Hospital: 87%
- Bon Secours St. Francis Medical Center: 86%
- Ballad Norton Community Hospital: 86%
- Twin County Regional Hospital: 86%
- Sentara Princess Anne Hospital: 85%
- Stonesprings Hospital Center: 84%
- Sentara Leigh Hospital: 84%
- Winchester Medical Center: 84%
- Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center: 83%
- Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center: 82%
- Virginia Baptist Hospital: 82%
- Augusta Health: 82%
- Novant Health Systems Culpeper Hospital: 82%
- Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital: 82%
- Sentara Rmh Medical Center: 82%
- Henrico Doctors' - Forest Hospital: 82%
- Sovah Health Danville: 81%
- Inova Fairfax Hospital: 81%
- Inova Loudoun Hospital, Lansdowne: 81%
- Virginia Hospital Center: 81%
- Chesapeake Regional Healthcare: 81%
- Prince William Medical Center: 80%
- Stafford Hospital Center: 80%
- Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center: 80%

HOSPITALS WITH A 5% INCREASE OR HIGHER

- Wythe County Community Hospital +15%
- Mary Washington Hospital +11%
- Stonesprings Hospital Center +11%
- Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center +6%
- Henrico Doctors' - Forest Hospital +5%
- Inova Fair Oaks Hospital +5%

HOSPITALS WITH ZERO REJECTIONS

Ballad Johnston Memorial Hospital Inc., Ballad Norton Community Hospital Inc., Bon Secours Memorial Regional Medical Center, Bon Secours St. Francis Medical Center, Carilion New River Valley Medical Center, Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, Chesapeake Regional Healthcare, CJW Medical Center - Jahnke Road, CJW Medical Center - Johnston Willis Drive, Clinch Valley Medical Center, Fauquier Hospital, Inc., Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, Inova Alexandria Hospital, Inova Loudoun Hospital, Lansdowne, Lewis Gale Medical Center, Lewis-Gale Hospital-Montgomery, Mary Immaculate Hospital, Mary Washington Hospital, Novant Health Systems Culpeper Hospital, Prince William Medical Center, Reston Hospital Center, Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital, Sentara Careplex Hospital, Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital, Sentara Leigh Hospital, Sentara Obici Hospital, Sentara RMH Medical Center, Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center, Southside Community Hospital, Sovah Health Danville, Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center, Stafford Hospital Center, Stonesprings Hospital Center, Twin County Regional Hospital, VCU Health - Community Memorial Hospital, VCU Medical Center - MCVH, Virginia Hospital Center, Wythe County Community Hospital

REMINDER

The state benchmark for paternity establishment is 80%. Each hospital should strive to achieve this paternity establishment rate monthly. Use our paternity establishment calculator located on our website to make sure you are tracking your hospital's performance. Your Outreach Coordinator will monitor your performance and work with you to achieve the desired benchmark.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Little Hands Virginia

Author: Jessica Lennie

Virginia Paternity Establishment Program recently had the opportunity to work with one of our amazing community partners over at Little Hands Virginia. Little Hands is the only organization in Central Virginia solely dedicated to providing essentials to economically disadvantaged young children in the first years of their lives! Little Hands is focused on the early years, making sure children in Central Virginia are clean, healthy, and cared for from day one. They feel that by better supporting young children and their families, outcomes down the road can be improved. Little Hands relies on big hearts in the community. The organization collects new and gently used items on an ongoing basis through regular donation hours, donation drives, and crowdsourcing. VPEP chipped in by helping to organize and package donations for families in the area!



Pictured from left to right: Brandon Ventura, Richmond Outreach Coordinator; Amy Martin, Veritas-HHS Senior VP; Yesenia Sarabia-Peiker, Project Manager and Northern Outreach Coordinator; Laphillda Davis, Eastern Outreach Coordinator; Latasha Oliver, Western Outreach Coordinator; Lori Chance, Document Management Specialist; Margaret Long, Little Hands VA Program Director.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Norfolk Zoo

Author: Laphillda Davis

As an attraction dedicated to helping animals, the Norfolk Zoo expands its efforts to include education for schools, group programs for all ages, homeschool groups, and more. The programs are meant to be fun, a happy memory, and a learning experience for children and adults. Learning about animals and conservations at this zoo incorporates the Virginia Standards of Learning along with curriculum requirements in North Carolina and private schools. If you are interested in a great time or if you have families that want to have a great time, visit or encourage them to visit the Norfolk Zoo website for more information.



The Black Father Family Initiative

Author: Latasha Oliver

The Black Father Family Initiative is a program that is available through United Way of Roanoke. The program is aimed specifically to black fathers that helps them to parent responsibly. The program provides the fathers with support and resources, and helps the fathers to overcome societal barriers that may keep them from being better fathers. The program also educates policymakers on a local, state, and national level to understand the importance of the involvement of black fathers. The Black Father Family Initiative creates a space for black fathers to find meaningful connections, support and resources to promote the health, well-being and success of children, families and communities.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Toll-free 24-hour hotline: 1-804-285-5826

Website: www.vapaternity.com

Project Manager & Northern Region: Yesenia Peiker - ypeiker@veritas-hhs.com

Eastern Region: Laphillda Davis - ldavis@veritas-hhs.com

Western Region: Latasha Oliver - loliver@veritas-hhs.com

Richmond Region: Brandon Ventura - bventura@veritas-hhs.com

Document specialist: Lori Chance - lchance@veritas-hhs.com

Digital media specialist: Jessica Lennie - jlennie@veritas-hhs.com



SOCIAL MEDIA



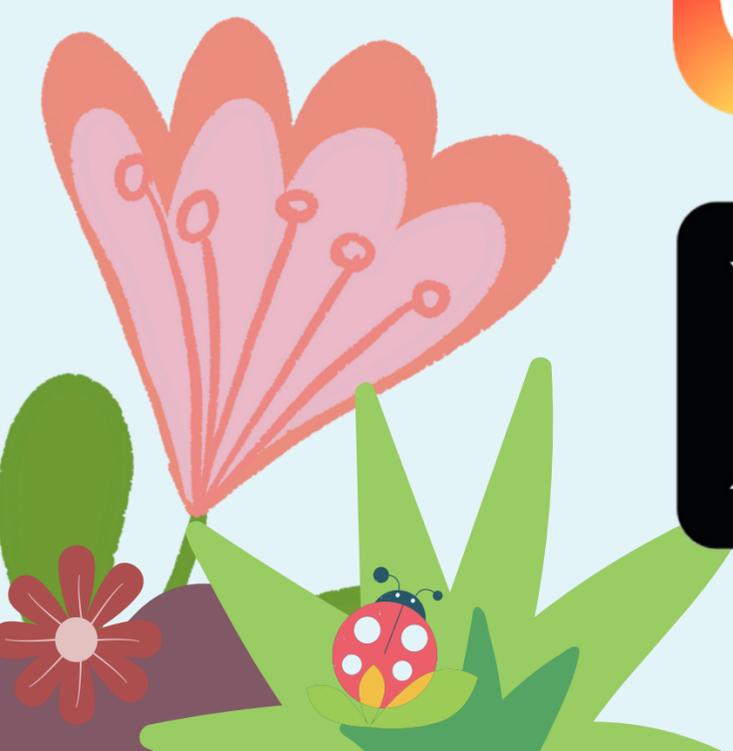
VAPaternityEstablishment



Vapaternity



Vapaternity



QUESTIONS?

