

Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity

Instructions for Unmarried Parents

***If you are not married or have not been married within the 300 days prior to birth and
You want the name of your baby's father
on the birth certificate,
You and the father must follow these steps:***

1. Fill out a *Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity (VAoP)* form at the hospital.
2. Have valid picture identification (like a driver's license).
3. **Social Security numbers** must be given if you have one.
4. If either you or the father is **under 18 years of age**, you must have the consent of one of your parents or a *legal* guardian. The parent or legal guardian must be present when you sign the *VAoP* form. This person must **also** sign the form and have identification.
5. **Decide what last name you want to give your baby.** The baby's last name must be a part of your legal name, your maiden name or the father's legal name.

- If you have any questions about completing this form, call the Tennessee Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity (TN VAoP) Hotline: **1-800-457-2165**.
- If the *VAoP* form is not completed at the hospital, the father's name and information cannot go on the original birth certificate.
- To add the father's name at a later date, you can call your local health department or child support office for an appointment to complete the *Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity (VAoP)* form.

_____ **County Health Department:** _____

_____ **County Child Support Office:** _____

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES



Helping shape Tennessee lives.

*If you have additional questions related to paternity, child support, or genetic testing, call the
TN VAoP Hotline: 1-800-457-2165*

State of Tennessee

A program of the Department of Human Services
in cooperation with the
Department of Health

Rev 08/08