IOWA | Health and Human Services

ABSTRACT FROM COURT DETERMINATION OF PATERNITY
INSTRUCTIONS and GENERAL INFORMATION

Clerk of District Court:

Complete all items in Parts 1 through 4 of this abstract according to the final judgment of paternity establishment granted in a court in your jurisdiction. Type or print clearly. Do not use all capital letters. Sign, date, and affix your seal in the certification section only after Parts 1 through 4 are complete.

For Iowa-born registrants, forward this completed form in your weekly mailings to the state registrar of vital statistics, or by regular mail to the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Health Statistics and Vital Records, Lucas State Office Building, 1st Floor, 321 E. 12th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075.

Vital Records Fees:

There is no administrative fee required to reflect paternity establishment on a birth certificate.

To obtain a certified copy of the birth certificate, the entitled applicant must either relinquish the child's previously issued birth certificate and request a replacement at no cost or submit an application along with a $20.00 fee. All requests for the new certified copy must also be accompanied by a written request proving entitlement, a notarized signature, and a clear photocopy of the applicant's current U.S. government-issued photo identification.

Establishment of New Certificate:

Upon receipt of this completed report for an Iowa birth, the Iowa Bureau of Health Statistics will establish a new certificate of birth to be filed in place of the original birth certificate. The new birth certificate will bear the name of the child after the judgment and reflect the adjudged father's information as determined by the court. The format and the content of the new birth certificate will be similar to the original birth certificate.

Original Certificate to be sealed:

The original birth certificate on file at the state vital statistics office, the Abstract from Court Determination of Paternity, and other related information will be placed in a sealed docket file and thereafter may not be referred to except by the state registrar for administrative purposes or upon a court order from a court of competent jurisdiction.

If the birth occurred July 1, 1995, or later, the County Registrar of Vital Records in the county of birth will also be notified to seal the original birth record on file in their office. The record is replaced with the new certificate, which is open to public inspection according to Iowa law. County registrars are not legally entitled to hold custody of records of single parent births prior to July 1, 1995.

Registrants born outside of Iowa:

For registrant's born outside of Iowa, the petitioner or the petitioner's attorney must forward a certified copy of the court order to the proper registration authority in the registrant's state of birth. They are also responsible for contacting that registration district regarding any fee requirements.

Fees are not collected and paternity establishment is not processed by the Iowa Bureau of Health Statistics if the registrant was born outside of Iowa.

For more information:

For more information, contact any Clerk of District Court office or the Iowa Bureau of Health Statistics at the address listed in the Clerk of District Court section above or call 515-281-4944 and ask for the paternity specialist.