

RESPONDENT'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN ADMINISTRATIVE PATERNITY ESTABLISHMENT

_____ is named as the father of the child(ren) named in the *Notice of Intent to Establish Paternity*. Please read all of the documents that you received. The decisions that you make about this action will greatly affect your legal obligations and the future of the child(ren) involved.

What Are Your Rights?

Read the *Notice of Intent to Establish Paternity* very carefully. That document states your options and the time frames for responding. If you do not meet those time frames, the Child Support Recovery Unit (CSRU) may enter an order finding _____ to be the father of the child(ren) named and, if applicable, ordering _____ to pay support and either or both parents to provide health care coverage.

You have the right to consult with or hire an attorney to represent you in this action. CSRU will not provide an attorney for you, give you legal advice, or pay for your attorney.

If you do not think _____ is the father of the child(ren) named in the notice, you have a right to request genetic testing to determine, within a certain probability, whether _____ is the father. If the genetic testing shows that _____ is not the father, this action will be dismissed. If the genetic testing indicates that _____ could be the father, both parents have the right to a court hearing.

You may agree that _____ is the child(ren)'s biological father. If you agree, an order will be entered establishing him as the child(ren)'s legal father.

If support is at issue, you may also agree to the entry of the order for support. If you do agree, the order establishing paternity will also contain provisions for _____ to pay child support and either or both parents to provide health care coverage.

If you do not agree to the support provisions and you request a court hearing, the order establishing paternity will be entered, and you will have a right to make your arguments regarding support to the court.

What Are the Effects of a Paternity Order?

If an order is entered finding _____ to be the father, the effects are as follows:

_____ is legally established as the father of the child(ren).

The child(ren) benefit from knowing who their legal father is for purposes of emotional well-being, inheritance rights, and information on family medical background.

If the child(ren) were born in Iowa, _____ will be entered on the birth certificate(s) as being the legal father.

If the child(ren) were born outside of Iowa, the laws of the state in which they were born will govern what information is entered on the birth certificate(s).

You may have the right to petition the court for visitation privileges and custody in a separate proceeding. Contact a private attorney if you have any other questions.

If support is at issue, _____ will be ordered to pay child support and either or both parents to provide health care coverage.

If _____ is ordered to pay support and has income, payment will be made by income withholding. If _____ does not pay the support as ordered, _____ will be subject to collection action, including, but not limited to:

- Income withholding,
- Garnishment,
- Attachment of a lien,
- Administrative levy of account,
- Income tax setoff,
- And any other collection action allowed by law.

_____ may be required to pay the costs of the legal action, including but not limited to, service fees, genetic testing costs, deposition costs, and court costs.