



Protect your rights as a father!

***Registering with Responsible
Father Registry does not incur
Child Support obligations.***

***There is no cost for putative
fathers to register.***

***If you do not register, your
children could be adopted
without notice to you.***

***A person can only
place his own name on
the Registry.***

Make the responsible choice by registering!

Registering is the first step for a putative father to seize the opportunity to assert his rights to a child that he may have fathered.

Important Notice:

After a father registers with the Responsible Father Registry, he must notify the Registry of address changes. If he does not notify the Registry of his change of address, the father loses his right to receive notice through the Responsible Father Registry.

Responsible Father Registry

PO Box 1520
Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 898-7460
(803) 898-7641 fax

**[https://ssl.sc.gov/DSSFatherRegistry/
FatherReg/RegIndex.aspx](https://ssl.sc.gov/DSSFatherRegistry/FatherReg/RegIndex.aspx)**



DSS Brochure 37571 (APR 21)

The Responsible Father Registry

A Voice for Putative Fathers



**Protect your Rights
as a Father**





What is a putative father?

A man who has fathered a child with a woman he is not married to.

What is the Responsible Father Registry?

The Responsible Father Registry gives a man who has fathered a child with a woman he is not married to the right to be notified when an adoption or a termination of parental rights action occurs.

A putative father may register before or after the birth of the child. A registration is not valid if it is filed after a complaint for termination of parental rights or adoption is filed in court.

Who can register?

Any man who thinks he is the father of a child by a woman he is not married to may register.

Is there a fee to register?

There is no fee associated with registering.

Why register?

The Registry is checked by attorneys when they file adoptions and termination of parental rights cases. By registering, the putative father gains the right to receive notice of these court proceedings.

What are the consequences of not registering?

If a putative father does not register, he may lose his right to object to termination of his rights or to the adoption of his child.

Will the Registry be used to enforce child support?

The Registry is not used to enforce child support payments.

What are the rights of a putative father?

By registering as a putative father, a father ensures his rights to receive notice of court actions for termination of his parental rights for a child.

Putative fathers who have questions and want to know about their legal rights should contact their attorney for advice.

Must all putative fathers register to protect their rights?

Even if they do not register, the unmarried biological fathers described below have not waived their right to notice of adoption proceedings or to notice of termination of parental rights proceedings:

- a person adjudicated by a court in South Carolina to be the father of the child;

- a person who is recorded on the child's birth certificate as the child's father;
- a person who is openly living with the child or the child's mother, or both, at the time the proceeding is initiated and who is holding himself out to be the child's father;
- a person who has been identified as the child's father by the mother in a sworn, written statement; and

Even if he does not register, a man whom the family court finds to be mentally incapable of giving consent or relinquishment, for the purpose of adoption, has not waived his right to notice of adoption proceedings.

If you are not sure whether you fit in one of these categories, register!

How can I register?

Fathers may register online at:
**[https://ssl.sc.gov/DSSFatherRegistry/
FatherReg/RegIndex.aspx](https://ssl.sc.gov/DSSFatherRegistry/FatherReg/RegIndex.aspx)**
or by sending an application by mail