

## CHAPTER 4, Adoption and Birth Parent Services

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### 410.05 Birth Parent Services – Services to Fathers

#### Adoption Specialist

1. Make diligent efforts to locate the man (men) whom the birth mother has named as possible fathers to the child. In cases of alleged criminal sexual conduct or incest, determines whether this putative father exhibited the types of conduct that would make his consent necessary before an adoption can proceed (see Section 20-7-1690 of SC Code of Laws).
  - a. If his consent is required, this father can either consent to the adoption by signing a relinquishment, or his rights will have to be terminated by the court (TPR)
  - b. If his consent is not necessary, there is no need to pursue either a relinquishment or TPR
  - c. If the child is conceived as a result of criminal sexual conduct or incest, the putative father is not entitled to notice of the proposed adoption. However, he may still have to consent (see Section 20-7-1690 of SC Code of Laws)
2. If the child is conceived as a result of reported criminal sexual conduct or incest, obtains from the birth mother a written affidavit attesting to the facts and details surrounding the incident that resulted in the pregnancy. If birth mother is a minor, makes a report to the police.
3. Documents, in the case record, reasonable efforts made to locate any named fathers, including:
  - a. Checking the local phone directory and vehicle registration rolls
  - b. Checking with known relatives of the father
  - c. Checking with known employers of the father
  - d. Checking with local utilities to see if the father is receiving gas or electric services
  - e. Checking DSS records to see if the father is receiving or has received any assistance and
  - f. Making a Diligent Search referral by completing the [DSS Form 2738 Foster Care - Child Support Referral Form](#)
4. Provides services if the birth father is receptive
5. Explains the options available to the birth father:
  - a. Making a plan to parent the child himself. Advises him that he has the right to visit and the obligation to provide support
  - b. Signing a [DSS Form 30115 Denial of Paternity](#)
  - c. Signing a [DSS Form 30119 Waiver of Notice](#)
  - d. Signing a [DSS Form 3093 Relinquishment for Adoption](#)
  - e. Refusing to cooperate - if a birth father refuses to cooperate in choosing any of the options listed above, he must be informed that he may be noticed of the proposed adoption via newspaper publication. If his consent is required and he will not consent, then he will be part of a court action to terminate his parental rights
6. Writes any named father at least twice a month, informing him of his obligation to support the child and his rights to visitation with the child; and
7. Checks Child Support Enforcement (CSE) to see if there is an open case. If not, makes a referral to CSE.

#### **Referenced Documents**

[DSS Form 2738 Foster Care - Child Support Referral Form](#)

[DSS Form 30115 Denial of Paternity](#)

[DSS Form 30119 Waiver of Notice](#)

[DSS Form 3093 Relinquishment for Adoption](#)