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Should the Department of Human Resources, Office of Permanency receive a Petition to Adopt naming the child, this Office will send the court a letter telling the court that you have registered as the father. The court will then send a letter to you and the child's mother notifying you of the adoption petition. The names and addresses of those listed in the Alabama Putative Father Registry will be provided to the court only. The information is not given to any other person except by court order.



ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

OFFICE OF PERMANENCY

50 Ripley Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

Pamphlet Series 2001-01
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All programs of the Department of Human Resources are administered in accordance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and all other federal and state civil rights laws.

Putative Father REGISTRY

*Alleged fathers in Alabama
have the right to be notified of
adoption proceedings involving
their children.*

Alabama
DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN RESOURCES

The Putative Father Intent to Claim
Paternity Registration form
and the
Child Support Obligation Income
Statement / Affidavit
may be requested from the

Alabama
Department of Human Resources'
OFFICE OF PERMANENCY
(334) 242-9500

or

downloaded from the DHR website -

www.dhr.alabama.gov

Completed and notarized forms for the
Putative Father Registry should be mailed to:

Alabama DHR
OFFICE OF PERMANENCY

P.O. Box 304000
Montgomery, AL 36130 - 4000

Alleged fathers must register with the Putative Father Registry either prior to the child's birth or within 30 days after the child's birth. The putative father must provide complete information and proper forms to DHR's Office of Permanency.

Are you a man who *may* have a child born out of wedlock?

Do you know about the Alabama PUTATIVE FATHER REGISTRY?

Alabama Law (Code of Alabama 1975, Section 26-10C-1) says that a putative father – a man who thinks or says he is the father of a child born out of wedlock – should be notified if the child is being adopted by someone. In other words, the registry was set up for men who *think* they may have a child born out of wedlock to register so they will receive a letter notifying them if that child is being adopted. Then the father can contact the court if he disagrees with the adoption of that child.

WHY DO YOU NEED TO REGISTER?

If you do not register, the law says you have automatically agreed (given "irrevocable implied consent") to any adoption of the child. This means that **if you do not register** and someone goes to court to adopt the child, you do not have a right to receive a letter telling you about the adoption and **your rights to the child may be ended**. Based on current law, it does not matter if you have supported the child or mother or if you disagree with the adoption petition. You must register to protect your right to be informed of any adoption plan for the child and to be given the opportunity to be heard in the court where the adoption is taking place.

WHEN DO YOU REGISTER?

- The law allows the putative father to register **while the mother is pregnant with the child or within 30 days after the child is born**. As soon as you *think* that someone is pregnant by you, you should register. You do not have to prove in court you are the father before you register.
- If you have legitimated the child in the probate court according to *Alabama Code 1975, §26-11-1 to §26-11-3*, you may send a copy of the order and the completed and notarized forms to the DHR address listed below.
- After a court has decided that you are the father, you may register by sending a copy of the court order naming you as the father to the address listed below.

HOW DO YOU REGISTER?

You must complete two forms in order to register:

- (1) The Putative Father Intent to Claim Paternity Registration form **and**
- (2) The Child Support Obligation Income Statement/Affidavit

The forms must be completed and notarized.

Then mail them to

**Alabama DHR Office of Permanency
P.O. Box 304000
Montgomery, AL 36130 - 4000**

The forms are available on the Internet at www.dhr.alabama.gov or through the Office of Permanency at (334) 242-9500.

Please note that even though you send completed child support forms, this does not require you to pay child support unless you are ordered by a court. When you send the forms, it only registers you on the Alabama Putative Father Registry.

It is important that the registry have your current address. You will need to contact SDHR Office of Permanency at (334) 242-9500 to request the registry be updated should your address change.

WHAT DOES THE PUTATIVE FATHER REGISTRY NOT DO?

- The registry does **not** prove or make you the father of the child – it protects your right to receive notice of an adoption proceeding involving the child.
- The registry does not make a father pay child support – a court must determine you to be the father and order you to pay child support.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU REGISTER?

- After you send your notarized registration form and child support income statement/affidavit, you will be entered on the Alabama Putative Father Registry. You will receive a letter letting you know that you have been registered.

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PUTATIVE FATHER LAW