

How to Establish Paternity in Arizona

By: Timothy Durkin, Attorney at Law
JacksonWhite, P.C.

Did you know that in Arizona, just listing a father's name on a birth certificate is not sufficient to establish paternity? If a child's parents were not married when the mother became pregnant or when the child was born, that child has no legal father until paternity is established. This can become a serious issue for couples who never marry but have children together.

There are many reasons why establishing paternity is important for both the child and the father. Until there is a court finding that biological father is the legal father, the child has no claim when it comes to receiving financial support or inheriting assets from the father. The child will not be eligible to obtain other potential benefits through his or her father. Benefits include things such as insurance or social security. On the other side, the father has no custodial or parenting time rights to the child until his paternity is established. Custodial rights include the right to participate in decisions regarding the child such as where the child goes to school or where and what type of medical treatment the child will receive.

In Arizona, paternity can be legally established in various ways, including:

- Voluntary establishment through the court;
- Establishment by the court after a court case filing;
- Establishment through the Department of Economic Security;
- Establishment by automatic operation through the Department of Health Services.

Establishing paternity through any of these procedures will produce the same result, which is that the biological father will then become the legal father.



Timothy Durkin joined JacksonWhite in 2010, and quickly established himself as a highly effective family law attorney with the perfect balance of assertiveness and compassion. Tim is often complimented for his dedication to professional service, as he works closely with his clients to keep them informed, listen to their needs and involve them in the decision making process.

Tim handles all types of family law, including divorces, paternity actions, child custody, child support, relocation and jurisdiction issues, adoptions, termination of parental rights and parental severance actions, title 8 guardianships, spousal maintenance cases, division of marital property and debts, pre-nuptial agreements, post decree modifications and enforcement of custody and divorce orders, mediation services, grandparent visitation cases, and domestic violence issues. He is licensed to practice law in all Arizona State Courts, as well as the United States District Court, District of Arizona, and serves clients throughout the Phoenix metro area. To read more about what former clients are saying about hiring Tim, or to set up a free consultation, please visit www.jacksonwhitelaw.com/arizona-family-law.

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