
DCSE Policy & Procedures Unit
Policy Update
PPU 04-06-005
June 8, 2004

SUBJECT: REVISED/UPDATED-California Birth Certificates and California Declarations of Paternity

Please contact the Policy Unit if you have any questions regarding these or any other changes at
*DCSE-POLICYQUESTIONS, CSE.POLICY or (602) 274-7951.

The IV-D PARTNERS should send POLICY inquiries directly to AHoulis@azdes.gov

This Policy Update is being sent to notify all IV-D staff of information the Policy Unit has received from the California IV-D program.

Question:

"If the father's name is on the (California) birth certificate, does this mean that paternity is conclusively determined?"

Answer:

No . . . A father's name on the birth certificate for . . . children born after 1995, the Declaration of Paternity form itself, not the name of the father on the (California) birth certificate, carries the evidentiary weight. The father's name on the (California) birth certificate after 1/1/97 (date which California recognizes federal mandates on voluntary acknowledgement) is a strong indication paternity has been established, but this must be confirmed by the existence of a filed paternity form. According to California's Health and Safety Code Sect. 102425(4) proof of filing the Declaration of Paternity in addition to the birth certificate determines a valid paternity.

Please use the attached form to determine if a *Declaration of Paternity* has been filed with the appropriate office.



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