How a Declaration of Paternity Can Help You And Your New Baby

What is a Declaration of Paternity?
The Declaration of Paternity is a legal document that establishes paternity for a child when voluntarily signed by the unmarried, natural mother and biological father.

How can a Declaration of Paternity help us?
When the parents are not married at conception or the birth of the child, the father may NOT be considered a legal parent with rights or responsibilities for the child. The Declaration of Paternity can be signed to help the father gain legal rights as the child’s father. The form will legally establish a parent-child relationship between the father and child when signed by the unmarried, natural mother and biological father.

Why should we sign the Declaration of Paternity?
- To legally establish the man as the child’s father.
- To allow the father’s name to be added to your child’s birth certificate.
- To allow your child to be added to the father’s health insurance plan.
- To protect your child’s right to inherit from his or her father.
- To ensure the father’s social security or military benefits may be paid to your child, if eligible, in case the father dies or is disabled.

What does it mean when we sign the Declaration of Paternity?
After both parents sign the declaration and it is filed with the California Department of Child Support Services, it legally establishes a parent-child relationship between the father and the child. The father will have the legal rights and financial responsibilities of a parent under California Law once paternity is established.

Can we rescind the Declaration of Paternity after we sign it?
Either parent may rescind (cancel) the Declaration of Paternity within 60 days from the date the declaration was signed by completing a rescission form [Declaration of Paternity Rescission (CS915)] and filing it with the California Department of Child Support Services. Rescission forms are available at any county child support agency or a county registrar of births and deaths’ office.

What do we do if we have more questions?
For more information about POP:
Call: (866) 249-0773 (option 3, option 5)
E-mail: askpop@dcss.ca.gov
Click on the POP link at: www.childsup.ca.gov