

PATERNAL INTEREST REGISTRY IN WISCONSIN

Information For
Social Workers, Attorneys Or Others
Searching For Putative Fathers

How to Make an Inquiry

Because Wisconsin's Paternal Interest Registry contains confidential information, the Division of Safety and Permanence in the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families will not confirm or deny that a declaration of parental interest is on file by telephone. All inquiries must be received by the Division of Safety and Permanence in writing by mail or by fax.

To make a request, submit a Court Inquiry On Declaration of Paternal Interest form ([CFS 19](#)) to the Division of Safety and Permanence at the following address:

Wisconsin Paternal Interest Registry
Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
Division of Safety and Permanence
P.O. Box 8916
Madison, WI 53708-8916
Phone Number: (608) 267-9730
Fax Number. (608)-266-0260

Fill out the top half of the form with the child's name, gender, birth date, and birthplace; the child's mother's name, age, and address; and the requestor's name, the name of the county or agency, address and fax number.

The Division of Safety and Permanence will need at least one working day (24 hours) to respond by mail, or by fax if requested. DO NOT submit the form electronically. At this time there is no charge for responding to inquiries, however the Department is authorized by statute to charge a reasonable fee and may do so in the future.

Copies of the Court Inquiry on Declaration of Paternal Interest Form may be requested from the Division of Safety and Permanence at the contact information above; or it can be obtained at the following web address: http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/forms/pdf/dcf_f_cfs0019_e.pdf

Confidentiality

The Paternal Interest Registry is a confidential record. Information in the Registry may only be disclosed by order of a court or under the following exceptions. When a registration form is

received, a copy will be sent to the child's mother at her last known address. The child's mother may respond in writing but is not required to do so. Individuals who are authorized to file various children's actions in court may also request that the Paternal Interest Registry be searched to determine if there is a registered putative father for the child. The Department will search its records and either provide a copy of the declaration form to the requesting party or will inform the requestor that no record exists. The information may only be used in the child's proceeding.

The Department of Children and Families' Bureau of Child Support or county child support agencies may not access information within the Paternal Interest Registry.

Penalties

Any person who intentionally obtains, uses, or discloses confidential information from the Paternal Interest Registry may be fined not more than \$1000 or imprisoned for not more than 90 days or both.

Prepared By:

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
Division of Safety and Permanence
Bureau of Safety and Well-Being