

## Help your baby get a step ahead in life.



See the *Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment* form for a complete list of your rights and responsibilities.

More information about legal fatherhood and child support is online at [dcf.wisconsin.gov/](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/) Most public libraries have Internet access.

For information or services, contact your local child support agency - listed online at [dcf.wisconsin.gov/](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/) and in your phone book under "county government" or tribal name.



DCF is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need to access this information in an alternate format, or need it translated to another language, call (608) 266-9909 or (800) 947-3529 TTY (Toll Free). For civil rights questions, call (608) 422-6889 or (866) 864-4585 TTY (Toll Free).

## Help your baby get a step ahead in life; Put Dad's name on the birth certificate.



## It's as easy as 1, 2, 3 . . .

**1** If you are not married, you may sign a form that will make sure that the father's name is put on the birth certificate and make him the legal father. The form is called the

### *Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment.*

You will get the *Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment* form at the hospital when your baby is born. You may also get the form by asking your local child support agency, your midwife, or most county register of deeds offices. Both parents must be age 18 or older to use this form.

**2** You should have the *Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment* form notarized (witnessed). Sign the form in front of a Notary Public. Ask the hospital staff if you may use their Notary. Most banks and child support agencies also have Notaries.

**3** If you sign the *Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgment* form at the hospital, the hospital staff will send in the form. You may also mail it yourself. If you cannot afford the fee (listed on the form), tell the hospital or child support agency. They might be able to help.

## How does this help your baby?

Whether the father is young or old, rich or poor, he is **the only birth father the baby has.**

- ♥ It is important for your baby to know who his or her mother **and** father are.
- ♥ It gives your baby the rights to:
  - the father's social security and veterans' benefits, if something should happen.
  - access to the father's family's health history by the child's doctor. This is important because conditions such as diabetes and sickle cell run in families.
  - tribal enrollment rights for Native Americans.
- ♥ Both parents are responsible for supporting their baby.
- ♥ Your baby might be covered under the father's health insurance.