

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 Children and Family Services in the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, 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 Children and Family Services 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 Children and Family Services at the following address:

Wisconsin Paternal Interest Registry
Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services
Division of Children and Family Services
P.O. Box 8916
Madison, WI 53708-8916
Phone Number: (608) 266-2744
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, and the name of the county or agency and address and fax number.

The Division of Children and Family Services will need at least one (24 hours) working day 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 Children and Family Services at the contact information above; from the Department of Health and Family Services' Forms Center using the instructions at this site: <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/forms/paperfpc.htm> ; or it can be obtained at the following web address: <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/forms/DCFS/CFS0019.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 Workforce Development's 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 Dept. of Health and Family Services
Division of Children and Family Services
Bureau of Programs and Policies