

## **Legal parentage is easy to establish without going to court – and it’s free!**

### **What is the Parentage Opportunity Program?**

The California Parentage Opportunity Program is a voluntary program for a birth parent and other parent to establish legal parentage free-of-charge.

### **What is the Uniform Parentage Act?**

Effective January 1, 2020, the Uniform Parentage Act allows more people to utilize the Parentage Opportunity Program, reflecting the diversity of California families.

### **Completing a Voluntary Declaration of Parentage**

In most cases, a signed and filed Voluntary Declaration of Parentage has the same force and effect as a judgement for parentage issued by a court.

### **Birth Certificate**

A birth certificate does not legally establish parentage, and filing a Declaration will not automatically change the name on a birth certificate. To get more information on any birth certificate-related topic, contact the California Department of Public Health, Office of Vital Records at 916.445.2684 or email at [VRmail@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:VRmail@cdph.ca.gov).

For more information  
[CalParentage.org](http://CalParentage.org)

Contact  
[askpop@dcss.ca.gov](mailto:askpop@dcss.ca.gov)  
Phone 866.901.3212  
Fax 916.464.5898

Hours of Service  
Monday-Friday 8am-5pm  
Saturday-Sunday Closed