

VOLUNTARY DECLARATION OF PARENTAGE (VDOP)

DCSS 0909 (01/01/2020)

ALTERNATIVES, RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND CONSEQUENCES:

I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that I have read and understand the following statements:

Alternatives: Parentage may be established by:

- VDOP: Filing a signed Voluntary Declaration of Parentage (VDOP) with the California Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) Parentage Opportunity Program (POP).
- Court Action: Filing a legal action in court to declare you a legal parent.
- Presumptions: Some people are presumed to be parents under California law. You may want to speak to an attorney or contact a family law facilitator to determine if this applies to you.

The following legal rights, responsibilities and consequences apply as a result of the completion and filing of this VDOP:

Rights:

- It legally establishes a parental relationship so that each parent will have the right to seek custody or visitation, and to be consulted about the adoption of the child.
- It authorizes both parents' names to be placed on the child's birth certificate.
- It allows for the child to benefit from healthcare coverage, inheritance laws, Social Security or Veteran's dependent or survivor benefits from either parent if eligible.
- Each parent has the right to rescind this VDOP. If I decide to rescind/cancel this VDOP, I will need to file a VDOP Rescission form (DCSS 0915) with the DCSS POP within 60 days from the date that I signed this VDOP. If I was under the age of 18 years when I signed the VDOP, I have until 60 days after I reach age 18 to rescind it.
- Each parent has a two-year period to challenge this VDOP. The challenge is permitted only under limited circumstances and is barred two years after the date this VDOP becomes effective. It also may be invalidated if either signatory is able to prove that they signed the form because of fraud, duress, or material mistake of fact.

Responsibilities:

- It establishes a duty in each parent to provide financial support for the child.
- It establishes a duty in each parent to provide healthcare coverage for this child if available at a reasonable rate.

Consequences:

- By signing this VDOP I am waiving all the following constitutional rights:
 - The right to receive notice of any hearing regarding the parentage of this child.
 - The right to have a trial to decide whether I am the parent of this child.
 - The right to have the opportunity to present my case in court, including the right to present and cross examine witnesses and have an attorney appointed to represent me if I cannot afford one in an action filed against me by a local child support agency regarding the establishment of my parentage or enforcement of my child support obligation for this child.
- By signing this VDOP I am consenting to the establishment of my parentage of this child, and thereby assuming all the rights and responsibilities of a parent under the laws of California.
- By signing this VDOP I am consenting to the other person signing being legally named the parent of this child.
- If either of the signatories to this form are under the age of 18 years when they sign this form, the form will not legally establish parentage until 60 days after both signatories are 18 years old or legally emancipated.
- Upon the filing of this VDOP with DCSS POP, each signatory submits to personal jurisdiction in California in any proceeding to challenge this VDOP.

Questions:

- If you have any questions or need a VDOP Rescission form (DCSS 0915), contact the State POP Coordinator toll-free by calling (866) 249-0773.