



# 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 Voluntary Declaration of Parentage 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).

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

Contact Us  
[AskPOP@dcss.ca.gov](mailto:AskPOP@dcss.ca.gov)  
916.464.1982

Hours of Service  
Monday - Friday: 8 AM - 5 PM  
Saturday - Sunday: Closed