

How to file a Complaint to Establish Paternity

Use these instructions if:

- ✓ You are filing a Complaint to Establish Paternity
- ✓ You are not married to the other parent of the child
- ✓ The father has not signed an Acknowledgment of Parentage and the father's name is not on the child's birth certificate
- ✓ Neither party is presently paying or receiving child support ordered by the Court

Produced by the Suffolk Probate & Family Court Community Outreach Program—Richard Iannella, Register

READ THIS:

Information provided in this packet IS NOT LEGAL ADVICE, It is information. This information is not a substitute for a competent lawyer.

When you sign a legal document or file any papers in court, it can seriously affect you in the future. You should always try to get legal advice before filing documents.

Bar Association lawyer referral services are listed in our brochure "Legal Resources in and around Suffolk County." Also listed are free legal service providers. You may be eligible for help.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING the COMPLAINT TO ESTABLISH PATERNITY

*Look at the sample form attached and follow the instructions for each letter or number.
Please print (in ink) or type all information.*

- A. Write in Suffolk.
 - B. You are the plaintiff. Print your name here.
 - C. The other parent of the child is the defendant. Print their name here.
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- 1. Print your address here. Check the box which applies to you. If you are the mother of the child, check the second box and cross out the word "father."
 - 2. Write in the child's name and address.
 - 3. Write in the address of the other parent.
 - 4. If you and the defendant are married, this is not the correct form for you to complete. Ask for assistance at the Resource Center or the Front Desk.
 - 5. If the mother was married to someone other than the biological father at the time of the child's birth, this is not the correct form. Ask for assistance at the Resource Center or the Front Desk.
 - 6. Check off the boxes which describe what you would like to court to order. For instance if you wish to be legally named the father and to obtain visitation, check off the first box and the sixth box.
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- D. Put in today's date.
 - E. Sign the form, then print your name, address, and telephone number.