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 | INFORMATIONAL LETTER |
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TRANSMITTAL: 92 INF-8

TO: Commissioners of
 Social Services

DIVISION: Income
 Maintenance

DATE: February 6, 1992

SUBJECT: Public Assistance: Paternity Acknowledgment

SUGGESTED

DISTRIBUTION: Income Maintenance Directors
 Staff Development Coordinators

CONTACT PERSON: Carolyn Karins, Bureau of Income Support Programs at
 1-800-342-3715, extension 4-9343

ATTACHMENTS: None

FILING REFERENCES

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
91 ADM-40		351.2 369.2 370.2		PASB IV-C-1 VIII-D-1 VIII-L-3.1 IX-B-3 iv-29.2 iv-31.2	

Paternity acknowledgments are used in verification of certain factors of public assistance (PA) eligibility. This release clarifies when paternity acknowledgments are used, what constitutes a paternity acknowledgment and how paternity acknowledgments relate to child support enforcement (IV-D) requirements.

Assistance in the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) or Aid to Dependent Children-Unemployed Parent (ADCU) category on behalf of an eligible child can be provided only to a parent or other eligible relative such as a grandparent, sibling, aunt or uncle (PASB VIII-A). For Home Relief households, the relationship of household members to each other and to non-applying individuals must be explored as a potential source of support (PASB IX-B-3). Consequently, PA applicants and recipients are required to furnish information regarding the relationship of household members to each other. For this purpose, the putative father's written acknowledgment of paternity is sufficient to establish his parental relationship to a child who was born out of wedlock.

A putative father's written acknowledgment of paternity is also used in determining a household's categorical eligibility for ADC. An out-of-wedlock child residing with the putative father who has not acknowledged paternity is considered to be deprived of parental support and care due to the continued absence of an acknowledged or adjudicated father.

A PA household which includes a child who was born out of wedlock must be referred to the IV-D unit and the household must cooperate with paternity adjudication proceedings. Paternity adjudication legally establishes the father's relationship to the child and his liability to support the child. The IV-D referral and cooperation requirements apply regardless of whether the putative father is in the household and regardless of whether he has acknowledged paternity.

For PA purposes of establishing a parental relationship and determining a household's categorical eligibility for ADC or ADCU, the following are examples of documents which comprise written acknowledgments of paternity (please note that these written acknowledgments are not equivalent to the written acknowledgment of paternity obtained by IV-D staff, which is a specific legal document):

- o A child's birth certificate which includes the putative father's name because his signature was required on an affidavit in order to have his name appear on the child's birth certificate. Please note that it is not necessary to obtain a copy of the affidavit.
- o The putative father's signature, as witnessed by an IM worker, on the "DSS-2921: Application for Public Assistance, Medical Assistance, Food Stamps and Services" which lists the putative father on line 01 in Section 6 and the child's relationship as "son" or "daughter".

- o A written acknowledgment signed by the putative father in the presence of an income maintenance (IM) worker or other official of the social services district.
- o A signed and notarized acknowledgment.

Oscar R. Best, Jr.
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Income Maintenance