

Matters of Record

News from the Center for Health Statistics concerning the Oregon birth certificate

Spring 2010

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Paternity report

Paternity means legally establishing the father of a child. Most births in Oregon occur to married mothers. For those children, paternity is established through a legal presumption that the husband of a woman is the father of her child. But more than one-third of the children born in Oregon are born to unmarried mothers. For these children, paternity cannot be established without additional action. An acknowledgment of paternity (AOP) signed at the birth facility is the easiest, fastest, and least expensive way to have the father added to the record.

Having the father on the birth certificate is important for many reasons:

- Provides the identity of the father to the child, now and in later life.
- Father has the full rights of a legal parent and the paternal grandparents have the same rights as the maternal grandparents.
- Financial support for the child, including medical insurance, child support, and other benefits will be more readily available to the child.

Paternity is also an important issue for Oregon. The number of paternities established affects the federal funding received for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Paternity must be established for 90 percent of the births to unmarried mothers for Oregon to qualify for the current funding for the TANF program. If we fail to do so, Oregon loses a large amount of money for a program that serves a great need.

Questions or Comments?

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The AOP (form 45-31) is a legal form that allows the father to be added to a record at the birth facility. There are limitations on when the form can be used. All of the following must be true:

- mother was not married at any time within 300 days of the birth;
- mother is still an inpatient at the facility;
- it is within five days of the child's birth;
- both parents are available to sign at the facility; and
- the form is witnessed by hospital staff.



The AOP can be accepted only if all of the above are true. Unfortunately, sometimes both parents aren't available at the facility or an AOP that was signed can't be accepted. The State of Oregon now has additional services to help unmarried parents establish paternity through the Division of Child Support. The parents do not need to request child support to receive help establishing paternity.

Please see our web site at www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/chs/registration or contact Judy Shioishi if you have questions about completing an acknowledgment.

Statewide for births that occurred in 2009 to unmarried mothers, 71.7% of records show an AOP signed at the facility. Oregon needs that number to be above 80% to protect our families and our TANF funds.

How is your facility doing?

The following table shows paternities by county and facility. The table includes:

- the total unwed births for the facility,
- the number and percentage with an AOP signed at the facility, and
- the number and percentage with a second parent on the birth record.

The number of AOPs signed at the hospital includes records with

- AOPs that could be immediately accepted and
- records where the AOP could not be accepted but follow up with parents was successful.

The number of records with a second parent listed includes records where the second parent was added through

- a successful AOP signed at the facility,
- a fee paternity, or
- other legal methods of adding the parent.

The second parent column excludes records where the AOP could not be accepted and follow up with the parents wasn't successful. For those records, the father was removed from the record when the record was registered. For births in 2009, 310 records had AOPs that were rejected and the father removed.

Number of births to unmarried mothers by birth facility for 2009

		Total unwed births	AOP signed at hospital		Second parent on record		
		Count	Count	%	Count	%	
Statewide total		16,870	12,112	71.8	12,619	74.8	
Baker	St. Elizabeth Health Services, Inc.	49	34	69.4	34	69.4	
Benton	Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center	266	209	78.6	209	78.6	
Clackamas	Kaiser Sunnyside Medical Center	471	325	69.0	333	70.7	
	Legacy Meridian Park Hospital	244	159	65.2	166	68.0	
	Providence Milwaukie Hospital	265	182	68.7	190	71.7	
	Providence Willamette Falls Medical Center	19	17	89.5	17	89.5	
	Willamette Falls Hospital	287	220	76.7	226	78.7	
	Clatsop	Columbia Memorial Hospital	146	107	73.3	114	78.1
		Providence Seaside Hospital	36	27	75.0	25	69.4
Coos	Bay Area Hospital	267	187	70.0	207	77.5	
	Coquille Valley Hospital	20	15	75.0	16	80.0	
Crook	Pioneer Memorial Hospital (Prineville)	52	37	71.2	38	74.5	
Curry	Curry General Hospital	29	23	79.3	22	75.9	
Deschutes	Bend Birth Center	2	2	100.0	2	100.0	
	Motherwise Community Birth Center	7	2	28.6	3	42.9	
	St. Charles Medical Center - Bend	549	411	74.9	414	75.4	
	St. Charles Medical Center - Redmond	97	70	72.2	71	73.2	
Douglas	Mercy Medical Center, Inc.	429	319	74.4	336	78.3	
Grant	Blue Mountain Hospital District	17	15	88.2	15	88.2	
Harney	Harney District Hospital	20	13	65.0	15	75.0	
Hood River	Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital	142	111	78.2	117	82.4	
Jackson	Ashland Community Hospital	129	82	63.6	101	78.3	
	Providence Medford Medical Center	246	172	69.9	178	72.4	
	Rogue Valley Medical Center	638	435	68.2	456	71.5	
Jefferson	Mountain View Hospital District	106	73	68.9	71	67.0	
Josephine	Three Rivers Community Hospital	327	246	75.2	243	74.3	
Klamath	Sky Lakes Medical Center	360	269	74.7	274	76.1	
Lake	Lake District Hospital	18	15	83.3	14	77.8	
Lane	McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center	249	173	69.5	184	73.9	
	Nurse Midwifery Birth Center	5	4	80.0	4	80.0	
	Peace Harbor Hospital	27	23	85.2	24	88.9	
	Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend	1,147	842	73.4	867	75.6	
	Sacred Waters Birthing Center	15	9	60.0	10	66.7	
Lincoln	Home Sweet Home Birth	10	9	90.0	9	90.0	
	Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital	95	75	78.9	71	74.7	
	Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital	113	81	71.7	89	78.8	
Linn	Samaritan Albany General Hospital	297	213	71.7	224	75.4	
	Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital	141	101	71.6	103	73.0	
Malheur	Holy Rosary Medical Center	283	202	71.4	204	72.1	
Marion	Salem Hospital	1,404	1,022	72.8	1,067	76.0	
	Santiam Memorial Hospital	53	36	67.9	37	69.8	
	Silverton Hospital	806	600	74.4	635	78.8	
Multnomah	Adventist Medical Center	477	338	70.9	346	72.5	
	Alameda Clinic	1	1	100.0	1	100.0	
	Alma Midwifery Services	26	16	61.5	17	65.4	

Number of births to unmarried mothers by birth facility for 2009

		Total unwed births	AOP signed at hospital		Second parent on record	
			Count	%	Count	%
	Andaluz Waterbirth Center - Portland	22	17	77.3	18	81.8
	Laurelhurst Women's Clinic	1	1	100.0	1	100.0
	Legacy Emanuel Hospital & Health Center	697	435	62.4	484	69.4
	Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital and Medical Center	208	160	76.9	170	81.7
	Legacy Mt. Hood Medical Center	393	274	69.7	279	71.0
	Natural Childbirth & Family Clinic	2	2	100.0	2	100.0
	OHSU Hospitals & Clinics	927	662	71.4	695	75.0
	Providence Portland Medical Center	857	586	68.4	628	73.3
	The Natural Childbirth & Family Clinic	2	2	100.0	2	100.0
Tillamook	Tillamook County General Hospital	61	47	77.0	45	73.8
Umatilla	Good Shepherd Medical Center	267	190	71.2	198	74.2
	St. Anthony Hospital	151	106	70.2	109	72.2
Union	Grande Ronde Hospital, Inc	118	83	70.3	86	72.9
Wallowa	Wallowa Memorial Hospital	10	7	70.0	8	80.0
Wasco	Mid-Columbia Medical Center	127	95	74.8	94	74.0
Washington	Andaluz Waterbirth Center - Tualatin	5	3	60.0	3	60.0
	Providence St. Vincent Medical Center	1,417	1,063	75.0	1,116	78.8
	Tuality Community Hospital	566	396	70.0	397	70.1
Yamhill	Bella Vie Gentle Birth Center	9	7	77.8	7	77.8
	Providence Newberg Medical Center	212	159	75.0	161	75.9
	Willamette Valley Medical Center	280	190	67.9	198	70.7

Do you know parents who want free paternity establishment services for their child?

The Child Support Program (CSP) is happy to paternity establishment services for parents and their Oregon. If a couple was not married, had a child Oregon, and did not get the father’s name on the certificate, the CSP may be able to help. (See rules if a family can use the free paternity service.)



announce free children in together in birth below to see

The CSP has 40 offices across Oregon that can offer help to these parents. When parents who meet the rules listed below visit an office, we will provide them a Voluntary Acknowledgement of Paternity form. The parents can fill out the form in our office and we will provide information to help ensure it is completed correctly. We will offer free notary services needed for the parents’ signatures, and mail it to the Vital Records office for the parents. The CSP will also pay the fee needed by Vital Records to add the father to the birth certificate.

WHAT IF THE PARENTS WANT TO HAVE GENETIC TESTS FOR THEIR CHILD?

Parents can ask for genetic tests, also called DNA tests, for their child. If this is an option, we will arrange for the tests for the mother, alleged father, and child. If the tests show that the man is the biological father, we will file a paternity-only order in court and send it to Vital Records to put the father on the birth record. The CSP will pay for the genetic tests and the Vital Records filing fee for the parents.

WHAT IF THE PARENTS WANT A COPY OF THE NEW BIRTH CERTIFICATE?

The parents will have to order and pay for their own copy of the new birth certificate. They can order it from the Vital Records office.

HOW DOES A FAMILY KNOW IF THEY CAN USE THE FREE PATERNITY SERVICE?

There are certain rules that need to be met for a family to use the free service:

- The child was born in Oregon and is under 18 years old;

- There is no legal father already on the birth certificate of the child;
- The mother was not married to another man when the child was born;
- The child is not currently on public assistance or in state care; (if they are, the state should already be pursuing paternity for the child);
- The parent's rights have not been terminated for the child whose paternity will be established;
- The child has not been legally adopted by someone else; and
- There is no court order saying the man named is not the child's biological parent.

WHO CAN SOMEBODY CALL AND TALK TO IF THERE ARE QUESTIONS?

Parents can call or visit their closest CSP office to talk about their family and what service they may need. If the parents do not meet the rules for this free service, they can ask for other services from the CSP.

Please see the attached PDF on free paternity services offered through CSP.

The list of child support offices in Oregon and how to contact them:

http://www.dcs.state.or.us/office_info/default.htm

Services offered by the Child Support Program:

<http://www.dcs.state.or.us/services/services.htm#EstPat>

The main website for the Oregon Child Support Program:

<http://www.doj.state.or.us/dcs/index.shtml>

Commemorative certificate of stillbirth now \$20

Beginning February 2, parents ordering commemorative certificates of stillbirth based on fetal death records filed after 1999 will be charged a \$20 certificate fee. Additional copies ordered at the same time will be \$15. The law creating the certificate authorized a fee but it was not implemented until an Administrative Rule was filed. Information and an order form may be found on the web at: www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/chs/order/faqs.shtml#stillborncert

Documentation is key when submitting amendment requests

It is very important that birthing facilities submit amendment requests based on documentation such as the birth worksheet or the mother's medical record rather than relying on a verbal request from a parent. Fraudulent amendments can occur when changes to the birth certificate are based on verbal requests from someone falsely claiming to be the legally recognized parent rather than on information filed at the time of birth.

Vital Records staff will contact you when they receive an amendment from a parent who states that the information on their child's birth is different than the information they provided to the hospital on the birth worksheet. We depend on your review of the original birth worksheet to assess whether this is true. If the information on the birth worksheet matches the information on the birth certificate, you should not amend the birth certificate. Please do not assume you should submit an amendment because a Vital Records staff person contacts you.



request certificate is worksheet. whether

It is important to properly store your birth worksheets. Never file birth worksheets in the medical record. Retain your birth worksheet for at least 1 year but no longer than 2 years.

Do you have questions about submitting an amendment for a child under the age of one? Please call Amanda Vega at 971-673-1169 or email her at amanda.l.vega@state.or.us

Mother's phone numbers added to EBRS birth certificates

As of May 1, 2010 the electronic birth registration system (EBRS) will include 2 new fields for the mother's phone numbers. The fields will appear at the bottom of the EBRS page entitled "Mother Address". There are fields for the primary and secondary phone numbers. Entering the mother's phone numbers is voluntary and does not prevent the birth record from registering. While the phone numbers are voluntary, we request that you collect them. Why? Because having the phone numbers provides Public Health nurses with a way to contact mothers who may need help with their babies. The phone numbers also enable Public Health employees to contact mothers to collect information for public health studies.

We have created new birth worksheets that include a space for the mother's phone numbers. You can access the revised birth Parent worksheets (in English or in Spanish) at the Registration website (<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/chs/registration/instructions.shtml>). You will find the worksheets near the top of the page under the title, "Certificate of Live Birth Information". If you use a birth worksheet tailored to your hospital, please update it to include the Mother's phone number fields.

Fetal death – A sensitive issue

"Fetal death" is the death of a fetus before the complete extraction from its mother. The death is indicated by the fact that the fetus does not breathe or show any other sign of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of the voluntary muscles.

Complete only one type of record for each pregnancy outcome. When the fetus was never alive outside the mother, complete a fetal death record. For a baby who is born alive but dies within a few minutes, complete a report of live birth and a death report. The length of life doesn't change the type of report used. Complete a report of induced termination if the patient didn't intend for a live birth to occur, regardless of the reason for termination. If you are unsure about which form to use, feel free to contact us with general or specific questions regarding a particular situation.

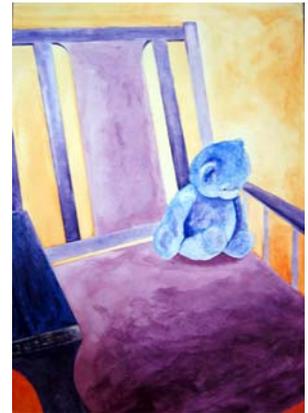


Image courtesy of
Carol Newman

When a fetal death occurs, whether a fetal death report must be completed is based on the delivery weight. If the delivery weight of the fetus is 350 grams or more, a fetal death report must be filed. Gestation is used to determine if a report must be filed only if delivery weight is unknown. In that situation, a fetal death report must be filed if estimated gestation is 20 weeks or more.

If the delivery weight is less than 350 grams or delivery weight is unknown and gestation is less than 20 weeks, a fetal death report is optional. However, we ask that facilities complete reports whenever the parents request. Parents might need certified copies of the fetal death report. And a fetal death report needs to be filed if parents wish to get a commemorative Certificate of Stillbirth from the Center for Health Statistics at a future date.

Under Oregon law, the Report of Fetal Death must be filed by the Medical Examiner if the fetal death occurred outside a medical facility and a physician was not in attendance at or immediately after the delivery. Nurses or midwives cannot file a report for an out-of-facility fetal death.

Regardless of whether a fetal death report is required to be filed, the disposal-transit permit must be completed for any fetus removed from the medical facility. It is no longer necessary to start a fetal death report in OVERS to create a disposal-transit form. Instructions on how to access the fillable pdf form without starting a record are available online at www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/overs/training.shtml or call the OVERS help line at 971-673-0279. The disposal-transit form is required by cemeteries and crematoriums to document the final disposition of the fetus. Funeral directors do not have direct access to this form and must receive it from the facility.

A burial or cremation tag must also be used for fetal deaths if the fetus is removed from the delivery facility. The tag information will initially be blank on the form. The funeral home can enter that information on the form before turning the form in to the crematory or cemetery, and the county vital records office.

We have several resources available on line to assist you when reporting fetal deaths.

Which form to use? Decision tree is at www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/chs/registration/docs/PregnancyTree.pdf

How to complete the report? Fetal death instructions are at www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/chs/registration/instructions.shtml.

How to enter into OVERS? Fetal death user guide is at www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/overs/training.shtml#User_Guides.

In addition, staff is available to answer questions:

Judy Shioishi, Vital Records Field Liaison 971-673-1166
Registration assistance 971-673-1151
OVERS helpline 971-673-0279



Important CHS Contact Information

Paternities

Debbie Gott
971-673-1155

Filiations

Tony Bojanowski
971-673-1143

Adoptions

Debbie Draghia
971-673-1152

OVERS Helpdesk

971-673-0279

Delayed Filings

Becki Buskirk
971-673-1147

Birth Corrections

<1 year, Amanda Vega
971-673-1169
1 + years, Johanna Collins
971-673-1137

Death Corrections

Patty Thompson
971-673-1163

State Registrar

Jennifer Woodward
971-673-1185

Amendments/Certification Manager

Carol Sanders
971-673-1178

Data Processing Supervisor

Cynthia Roeser
971-673-0478

Registration Manager

JoAnn Jackson
971-673-1160

Statistics Manager

Joyce Grant-Worley
971-673-1156

OVERS Manager

Karen Hampton
971-673-1191

Paternity Information on the Web at:

<http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/chs/change/paternityfaqs.shtml>

OVERS Information on the Web at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/overs/>

Center for Health Statistics:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/chs/index.shtml>

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