

what you need to know about **BIRTH CERTIFICATES**



WHAT IS A BIRTH CERTIFICATE?



The birth certificate is an individual's claim and proof of citizenship, identification and relationship to his or her parents. It is the primary document for your child to enter school, play little league sports, obtain a social security number, bank account, a driver's license and a passport.

HOW DO I GET A COPY OF MY BABY'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE?



At the hospital, after your baby's birth you will be asked to complete 'A Certificate of Live Birth' worksheet. The form is completed and signed in the hospital and is sent to the County to process. After 7 to 10 days you can request a copy by visiting the Hendricks County Government Center. Copies are \$15 each. More information is in your discharge binder you will get from the hospital.

HOW DO I GET A BIRTH CERTIFICATE IF:

I am married to the father of the baby.

- fill out birth certificate paperwork provided at the hospital

I am NOT married to the father of the baby but I want to list them on the birth certificate.

- A Paternity Affidavit can be signed at the hospital. Both parents will need a photo I.D. and it will need to be signed within 72 hours after the child is born.
- A Paternity Affidavit can be signed at the local Health Department in the county where the child was born, before the child is emancipated (of legal age), as long as no other father is listed on the birth certificate (there may be a fee).
- By Court Order if one or both parents file a paternity action in court.

I do not want to list the father of the baby on the birth certificate.

- Paternity does not have to be established for a birth certificate.
- The baby will have the mother's legal last name if Paternity is not established.
- Paternity can be established later through signing a Paternity Affidavit at the local Health Department or by reason of a Court Order.

None of the above fits my situation.

- call the Birth Registrar at Hendricks Regional Health at 317-456-9080 ext. 12418

*For questions about Paternity in the State of Indiana, see the pamphlet that comes with this education page or go to <https://www.in.gov/dcs/child-support/about-us/paternity/>