



ASSERTION OF PARENTAGE

THIS IS A LEGAL DOCUMENT
COMPLETE IN INK AND DO NOT ALTER

Center for Health Statistics
P.O. Box 9709
Olympia, WA 98507
360-236-4300
Fees: \$18 Filing Fee

DOH 422-165 March 2021

READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY ON PAGE 3.

Information as it appears on the Child's Birth Certificate			
1. Child's First Name	2. Middle Name	3. Last Name	
4. Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)		5. City or County of Birth	
6. Place of Birth- Name of hospital or location where child was born		7. Birth Parent/Mother's First, Middle, and Last Name	
Information of the Individual Asserting Parentage			
8. Full Name	9. Telephone ()	10. Email	
11. Address	12. City	13. State	14. Zip
<p>The individual must sign in the presence of either a <u>notarial officer</u> OR <u>third party witness</u>, not both. <u>All fields are required</u>, except for the notarial appointment expiration date when signed by a third party witness.</p> <p><i>I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that I married or entered into a state registered domestic partnership with the individual who gave birth to the child after the birth of the child and I am asserting parentage for the child. I affirm that I have been provided with and understand the rights and responsibilities, as written on the back of this form, and the information I have provided is true and correct.</i></p>			
<p>Signature of Individual Asserting Parentage _____</p> <p>Signed and sworn before me on _____ by _____ <small style="margin-left: 100px;">Date (MM/DD/YY)</small> <small style="margin-left: 100px;">Print Full Name of Individual Asserting Parentage</small></p> <p>State of _____, County of _____</p> <p>_____, <small>Signature of Witness or Notarial Officer</small> <small>Title of Office (if Notary)</small></p> <p>_____, My commission expires _____ <small>Printed Full Name of Witness or Notarial Officer</small> <small>Notary Use Only</small></p>			

Place notary seal here

STATEMENTS OF ASSERTION

By signing this form, you declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of Washington State that you understand the following:

- The legal basis for this form are chapters 26.26A and 26.26B of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW).
- This form is voluntary and used to file an assertion of parentage with the Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics under RCW 26.26A.115.
- You have the right to talk with an attorney before signing this form. If you do not understand this information or have further questions, you should talk to an attorney.
- Once the Assertion of Parentage form is signed and filed with the Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, the individual asserting parentage will need either an Acknowledgment of Parentage form or a court proceeding to establish a parent-child relationship.
- Competing claims to parentage may be resolved only by an adjudication under RCW 26.26A.400 through 26.26A.515.
- If you are not sure that you are the parent of the child and the child resides in Washington State, you may open a child support case with the Division of Child Support (DCS). In most cases, you will be required to submit to genetic tests to decide parentage. The genetic parent may be responsible for the costs of the test. To locate the DCS office nearest to you, call **1-800-442-5437**. You can find additional information about parentage establishment in the booklet entitled “Establish Parentage for Your Child’s Sake.” It is available at hospitals, birthing centers, and DCS offices (RCW 26.26A.300 through 26.26A.515).
- Only a court may determine custody and visitation issues for the child. Either parent may ask Superior Court to make residential provisions or a parenting plan after the 60-day rescission period has elapsed. The court may require the parent to pay costs (RCW 26.26A.400 through 26.26A.515).
- For the purpose of this form, “witnessed” means at least one individual who is authorized to sign has signed a record to verify that the individual personally observed a signatory sign the record (RCW 26.26A.010(23)). A person signing the witnessed statement must be at least 18 years of age and not related by blood or marriage to the individuals who sign an assertion, acknowledgment of parentage, denial of parentage, or rescission of parentage form.
- “Notarial officer” means a notary public or other individual authorized to perform a notarial act (RCW 42.42.010(9)).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSERTION OF PARENTAGE FORM

Read all instructions carefully before completing and signing the Assertion of Parentage form. Filing this form does not add a person to a birth certificate. **The Department of Health (DOH) cannot file forms with missing information and will return the form to the individual asserting parentage.**

Instructions for completing the Assertion of Parentage form:

- The person asserting parentage must sign page 1 in the presence of a notary **or** witness.
- The witness **or** notary must sign, print their name, and date on page 1.
- Submit completed Assertion of Parentage form with a **non-refundable** \$18 check or money order payable to DOH.
- Send all forms and payments to:

Department of Health
Center for Health Statistics
PO Box 9709
Olympia, WA 98507

What is an Assertion of Parentage form?

An Assertion of Parentage form is a legal form that is used to create a presumption of parentage. This form does not add a parent to a child's birth certificate.

Who can file an Assertion of Parentage form?

A person who married or became state registered domestic partners with the mother/birth parent of the child **after the birth of a child**. The mother/birth parent's signature is not required.

When is an Assertion required?

An Assertion is required if an individual gets married after the child was born to the person that gave birth. Once the Assertion is filed with the Department of Health, the spouse qualifies to sign an Acknowledgment of Parentage (AOP) form. The spouse needs to be considered a presumed parent, genetically related, or intended parent through assisted reproduction prior to the marriage, according to chapter 26.26A RCW, to sign the AOP without an Assertion.

What are my next steps after filing an Assertion?

There are only three ways to be listed as a parent on the child's birth certificate after filing an Assertion form.

1. If the mother/birth parent is willing to sign an AOP form and no second parent is listed on the child's birth certificate, complete and file an AOP form.
2. If two parents are currently listed on the child's birth certificate, the individual who filed an Assertion may file an AOP form, but the second parent must submit a Denial of Parentage (DOP) form to be removed from the birth certificate.
3. If anyone disagrees or will not sign an AOP or DOP form, a court order is required.

Do I need a notary or a witness?

Yes. The person asserting parentage must sign in front of either a notary **OR** a witness. The notary or witness must also complete the signature block. Common notary locations include hospitals, local banks, title companies, and attorneys/county clerks. A person signing the witnessed statement must be at least 18 years of age and not related by blood or marriage to the individuals who sign an Assertion of Parentage form. The local child support offices will serve as witnesses. Center for Health Statistics staff will not serve as witnesses.