

## Why Is Paternity so important?

### For the Child:

- Legal record of the identity of the child's parents.
- Father's name on their birth certificate.
- Information on family medical history.
- Emotional benefits of knowing his or her father.
- Financial support from both parents that includes child support, social security, veteran's benefits, military allowances, and inheritance.
- Health insurance from either parent, if available.

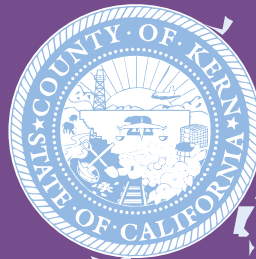
### For the Mother:

- Help in sharing parental responsibilities.
- Information about family medical history.
- Improved financial security for the child.

This information has been provided by the  
KERN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF



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This brochure is provided through the "It Happened 2me, it Could Happen 2u2", a collaborative teen parenting project between the Kern County Department of Child Support Services and the Kern High School District's Career Resource Department.

# Teen and 20 Something MOTHERS

*Establishing Paternity  
is important to ME*

**IT HAPPENED 2ME  
IT COULD HAPPEN 2U2**

# PATERNITY

Being a Teen/young adult is hard enough, when you add in being a Mother; things may seem overwhelming. Child Support Services can help you learn how to give your child the best support possible.

## Why Child Support?

Babies are expensive to take care of and it is likely that you will need help from others, including the father. You may need financial support so that you can take care of your child. Child Support Services can help your baby get the support they need and deserve.

## How can I get Child Support?

It's as easy as calling your local Child Support Agency, some CSA's have experts on staff to help you open a case right in their office.

## How much child support can I receive?

It all depends on the amount of money each parent makes and how much the court orders the father to pay. If the father is under 18 a case may be opened but the child support amount may be set at \$0 until the father graduates from high school or turns eighteen.

## If I am not the one taking care of the child do I have to pay child support?

Yes, If you are the non-custodial parent (fancy word for the parent not in charge of the care of the child ) you will have to provide child support.

## What is Paternity?

The legal acknowledgment of the parental relationship between a man and a child.

## What kind of information does child support need to help establish Paternity?

As much information as you can give about the father can help including pictures, information about your relationship, address, previous employers or any information from his friends and family.

## What happens after Paternity is established?

Once Paternity is established the Department of Child Support Services may establish what's called a support order,

which will require the father to provide support legally.

## How Long does it take to establish a case?

It all depends on the cooperation of you and the father, but most court orders can take 3 to 6 months to establish.

## What if he denies being the father or says he isn't sure?

If the father is unsure, he may be eligible to request genetic testing. If approved by Child Support Services or the courts, a Buckle Swab Test (aka genetic test) will be conducted by using a soft swab to swab the inside of the mouth of the Father, Mother and Child. The results of the test can establish better than 99 % certainty whether he is the father.



CHILD  
SUPPORT