

ACKNOWLEDGING PATERNITY AFTER CHILD'S BIRTH

If a child's paternity was not acknowledged at the maternity clinic, the matter is taken care of at an appointment with a child welfare officer after the child's birth. Both the parents must meet with the child welfare officer. You can make an appointment with a child welfare officer by phone, tel. 09 8392 3222 Tue, Wed and Thurs at 9–10 or online at: www.vantaa.fi/ajanvaraus. Child welfare officers give counseling about paternity issues over the phone on Mon-Thurs at 12-13, tel. 09 83911 / switchboard.

AGREEMENT ON JOINT CUSTODY

If the parents are not married when the child is born, the mother is the sole guardian of the child. In this case, the parents will decide on joint custody or sole custody. The parents can make an agreement on joint custody at the maternity clinic in connection with acknowledging paternity or at an appointment with a child welfare officer after the child's birth.

In case of joint custody, the parents will together agree on, among other things, the child's care, last name, passport, place of residence, citizenship, and health care. Nevertheless, the parent living with the child can decide on everyday matters affecting the child. Both parents can receive information about the child from different authorities.

Further information:

- www.vantaa.fi/establishing_paternity
- ww.thl.fi/paternity
- www.thl.fi/isyys

ACKNOWLEDGING PATERNITY AT MATERNITY CLINIC DURING PREGNANCY



At the same time, the parents can also agree on joint custody.

You can also acknowledge paternity at an appointment with a child welfare officer after the child's birth.

When must paternity be acknowledged?

Paternity is acknowledged, if the mother is not married when the child is born. If the parents are married when the child is born, they both get the status of being the child's parent and guardian.

PATERNITY CAN BE ACKNOWLEDGED IN ADVANCE DURING PREGNANCY AT A MATERNITY CLINIC, IF

- there is no doubt about paternity
- both parents agree on paternity
- acknowledging paternity has been agreed at the maternity clinic in advance
- there is no need to rush acknowledging paternity after the child's birth

How do we proceed?

- Make an appointment with the maternity clinic for acknowledging paternity (pregnancy week 33-34); you must both be present.
- Make sure that you both have **valid identity documents** when you come to the appointment.
- Before coming to the appointment, fill in the forms "personal data for acknowledging paternity" and "agreement on joint custody," and bring them with you to the appointment.
- The forms are available online at: www.vantaa.fi/establishing_paternity
- **Do not sign the forms in advance: you must sign the forms at the maternity clinic in the presence of a public-health nurse.**
- You will get copies of the unconfirmed documents. Paternity is confirmed when the Registry Office has handled the matter.

You can acknowledge paternity at a maternity clinic only during pregnancy. After the child's birth, paternity is acknowledged at an appointment with a child welfare officer.

How is paternity established?

The maternity clinic delivers the documents to the child welfare officer of the mother's place of domicile. After the child's birth, the child welfare officer will hold on to the documents for the statutory 30 days during which time it is possible to cancel or contest the acknowledgement of paternity.

The child's mother, the man that acknowledged paternity, or another man who thinks he could be the child's father can contest or cancel acknowledgement of paternity within 30 days from the child's birth.

The disclaimer or cancelation is emailed to the child welfare officer at: peruutus.lastenvalvojat@vantaa.fi. The letter or email must state the personal data of the parties concerned. If acknowledgement of paternity made during pregnancy is canceled or contested, the child welfare officer will start the process of establishing paternity.

If there is no doubt about the paternity, the child welfare officer delivers the paternity documents to the Registry Office which confirms the paternity and sends the decision directly to the parents. When paternity is confirmed, the child will be around 1.5-2 months old. If acknowledging paternity is urgent, it could be done faster at an appointment with a child welfare officer after the child's birth.

HOW ACKNOWLEDGING PATERNITY BENEFITS THE CHILD?

- The child's relationship with the father is established and the child has the right to inherit from the father.
- The child can be given the father's or the mother's family name.
- The child is entitled to child maintenance paid by the father.
- The father becomes the child's other guardian, if the parents so agree.
- The child has the right to meet his or her father.
- The child is entitled to potential family pensions as regards the father.