

HOUSE BILL NO. 128
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE B.DAVIS

Introduced: 2/5/93

Referred: Health, Education & Social Services, Judiciary, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to early acknowledgement of paternity for the child of an
2 unmarried mother."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 18.50 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 18.50.165. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PATERNITY; FORMS. (a)**

6 The state registrar shall prepare a form for use in acknowledging paternity under
7 AS 25.20.055. The form must include

8 (1) a statement that the man who signs the form is acknowledging that
9 the man is the natural father of the child named in the form and that the man assumes
10 the parental duty of support of that child; and

11 (2) the address and social security number of the man signing the form.

12 (b) The registrar shall distribute copies of the form prepared under (a) of this
13 section to each hospital in the state, to each physician in the state whose practice
14 includes attendance at births, to each nurse-midwife and direct-entry midwife in the

1 state, and to each other interested person in the state who requests copies of the form.

2 (c) A completed form prepared under (a) of this section is presumptive
3 evidence of a parent and child relationship between the man signing the form and the
4 child named in the form if the form is signed by the man and the child's natural
5 mother in the presence of two competent and disinterested witnesses who are 18 years
6 of age or older and by the two witnesses.

7 (d) The state registrar shall keep on file all forms acknowledging paternity that
8 are submitted to the registrar under AS 25.20.055.

9 * Sec. 2. AS 25.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10 Sec. 25.20.055. EARLY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PATERNITY
11 PROGRAM. (a) When a birth occurs to an unmarried woman in a hospital or en
12 route to a hospital to which the woman is later admitted, the hospital shall ensure that
13 a staff member

14 (1) meets with the woman before release from the hospital;

15 (2) attempts to meet with the father of the unmarried woman's child,
16 if possible;

17 (3) explains to the mother, and to the father if present, the benefits to
18 the child of establishing a parent and child relationship between the father and the
19 child and the various proper procedures for establishing a parent and child relationship;

20 (4) presents to the mother and, if possible, the father, a pamphlet or
21 statement regarding the rights and responsibilities of a natural parent; the Department
22 of Health and Social Services shall prepare this pamphlet and distribute copies of it
23 to each hospital in the state, to each physician in the state whose practice includes
24 attendance at births, to each nurse-midwife and direct-entry midwife in the state, and
25 to other interested persons in the state who request copies;

26 (5) provides to the mother and, if possible, the father, all forms,
27 statements, or agreements necessary to voluntarily establish a parent and child
28 relationship, including an acknowledgement of paternity form prepared under
29 AS 18.50.165;

30 (6) on request of the mother and father, assists the father in completing
31 specific forms, statements, or agreements necessary to establish a parent and child

1 relationship between the father and the child;

2 (7) presents to the mother an application for assistance under AS 47.07
3 (Medicaid) or AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.420 (AFDC) if the mother is not already a
4 recipient of this assistance; and

5 (8) on request of the mother and father, mails a completed voluntary
6 acknowledgement of paternity form to the state registrar for filing under AS 18.50.165.

7 (b) When a birth occurs to an unmarried woman who is not in a hospital for
8 the birth nor admitted to a hospital immediately after the birth, and the birth is
9 attended by a physician, nurse-midwife, or direct-entry midwife, the physician, nurse-
10 midwife, or direct-entry midwife shall perform the duties described in (a)(2) - (8) of
11 this section or ensure that an agent performs those duties.

12 (c) When a birth occurs in a situation that is not covered by either (a) or (b)
13 of this section, any adult may, upon request of the father and mother, assist them in
14 filing a voluntary acknowledgement of paternity form with the state registrar under
15 AS 18.50.165.