

CS FOR SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 128(HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/19/93

Referred: Judiciary, Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES B.DAVIS, Toohey

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 and witnessed by a person qualified to take acknowledgements under
6 AS 09.63.010.

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

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

27 (5) on request of the mother and father, assists the father in completing
28 specific forms, statements, or agreements necessary to establish a parent and child
29 relationship between the father and the child; and

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

1 (b) When a birth occurs to an unmarried woman who is not in a hospital for
2 the birth nor admitted to a hospital immediately after the birth, and the birth is
3 attended by a physician, nurse-midwife, or direct-entry midwife, the physician, nurse-
4 midwife, or direct-entry midwife shall perform the duties described in (a)(2) - (6) of
5 this section or ensure that an agent performs those duties.

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