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## Notice Regarding the Claim of Paternity Affidavit

If you claim to be the father of a child, and wish to be notified of any court hearing to terminate parental rights, or to release the child for adoption, you must complete the attached Claim of Paternity Affidavit form and return it to the Division of Child Support Services (DCSS). Before any such hearing takes place, the court will contact DCSS to see if there is a Claim of Paternity Affidavit on file. If so, DCSS will notify the court. Pursuant to RSA 170-B:6, the court will then send you a notice informing you of the proceeding and of your right to request a hearing to prove paternity. If you request a paternity hearing, and the court determines that you are the father of the child, your parental rights cannot be terminated, and the child may not be released for adoption, without your consent. You should be aware that by completing the Claim of Paternity Affidavit form, you are also indicating to the court your willingness and intent to support the child to the best of your ability if you prove to be the father of the child.

The Claim of Paternity Affidavit Form may be filed with DCSS before the birth of the child. The form must be filed, however, **before** the mother of the child voluntarily gives up her parental rights, agrees to release the child for adoption, or has her parental rights involuntarily terminated. If you do not file the form before this time, you will not be allowed to request a hearing to establish that you are the father of the child, and you will not be provided with notice of any adoption proceedings concerning the child.

When completing the form, **you must provide the mother's name**, as the form will be retained by DCSS under the mother's name. After completing the form to the best of your ability, you must sign the form in the presence of a Notary Public. If you are a minor (under the age of 18), your parent or guardian must also sign the form before the Notary Public.

NOTE: If your mailing address changes, you must provide DCSS with the new address which we will provide to the court in the event the mother terminates her parental rights. If you do not provide the new address to DCSS, the court will not be able to contact you regarding a paternity hearing.

Mail the completed Claim of Paternity Affidavit to:

Division of Child Support Services  
Paternity Unit  
129 Pleasant St  
Concord NH 03301-3857

To find out about other options available to you concerning your claim of paternity, you may wish to speak to an attorney, and/or call DCSS Customer Service at 603 271-4427.