



## What should I do?



## Genetic Testing vs. Paternity Acknowledgement

### Should I sign the Paternity Affidavit or ask for Genetic Testing?

**Paternity Affidavit** - By signing the Paternity Affidavit, it can sometimes leave uncertainty or doubt about your child's biological father in the future.

**Genetic Testing** - By having Genetic Testing, you have absolute scientific proof of your baby's biological father forever.

Having a new baby can be an exciting and emotional time for both the mother and father. The County Child Support Enforcement Agency encourages parents to understand the process, get the facts and choose a method that both parents can trust and rely on in the years ahead regarding Paternity Establishment!



#### Keep in Mind

- ◆ Services are provided in the county in which the child resides
- ◆ Genetic testing is free most, but not all of the time.

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: How much does Genetic Testing Cost?**

A: If the Paternity Affidavit has not been signed, testing may be free. Contact your Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) for more information.

**Q: What if the affidavit is already signed and now we'd like testing?**

A: If the Paternity Affidavit has been signed, you have 60 days from the date of the last signature to request genetic testing.

**Q: Who can request Genetic Testing?**

A: Either parent can request testing through the Child Support Enforcement Agency.

**Q: How soon can testing be done on my baby?**

A: Testing can be done as early as the date of birth of the child.

**Q: How is Genetic Testing done?**

A: Testing is performed using the buccal swab method, which is a simple, pain free mouth swab of the mother, child and alleged father(s).

**Q: How long does it take for testing results to come back?**

Results are returned to the agency in approximately 2 weeks. An order has to be issued by the agency or court. Parties are notified of the results by mail.

**Q: Who has legal custody of my newborn baby?**

A: According to Ohio law, an unmarried mother who gives birth has legal custody of her child.

**Q: Once paternity has been established, what is the next step?**

A: The Child Support Enforcement Agency can establish a child support and medical support order, as well as address the child's surname (last name).