

STATES WITHOUT PUTATIVE FATHER REGISTRY LAWS

STATE	HOW PUTATIVE FATHERS ARE IDENTIFIED	IS PUTATIVE FATHER ENTITLED TO NOTICE OF THE ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS	HOW NOTICE IS GIVEN	HOW A PUTATIVE FATHER INTERVENES IN THE PROCEEDINGS, UPON NOTICE
Alaska	A reasonable investigation is conducted to assure that all persons entitled to notice are located and notified.	Yes, the putative father is entitled to notice.	If a diligent search has been made for the father, and he is still unidentifiable, under Rule 4 of the Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure, the court may order publication of notice of the adoption	
California	Court shall cause an inquiry to be made of the birth mother and all other appropriate persons in pursuit of identifying the birth father.	Notice is given to every person identified as the natural father or a possible natural father.	Notice is given at least 10 days prior to a proceeding to every person identified as the natural father or a possible natural father.	Must bring an action declaring the existence of a father-child relationship: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • within 30 days of service of the notice of adoption proceedings; or • within 30 days of the birth of the child, whichever is later.
Colorado	An inquiry is made of the mother and any other appropriate person.	Notice is given to all known or possible fathers who have filed a paternity action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • within 30 days of the birth; or • within 30 days of being notified that they are or likely are the father 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice is given to every person identified as a birth parent or possible birth parent • If no father has been identified, notice shall be provided to all possible parents by publication 	The putative father has must file an answer and a claim of paternity within 30 days of receiving notice of the termination proceedings.
Connecticut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A diligent search shall be made by the party petitioning for the termination of parental rights • The petitioner shall file an affidavit indicating the efforts used to locate the putative father. 	Notice is not always required. The Father is entitled to notice of the termination proceeding if he: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is adjudicated to be the father; • has been acknowledged in writing as the father; • has contributed regularly to child support; • has had his named attached to the birth certificate; • has filed a claim for paternity; or • is named in the petition as the father 	Pursuant to the Connecticut Rules of Civil Procedure	The father may file no later than 60 days after the date of notice of the termination proceedings

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Delaware	The court will determine whether or not a father can be identified	Identified putative fathers are given 3 weeks notice of the adoption hearing	Notice is given by personal service or if the father is unidentifiable, by publication.	Putative father must respond to the petitioning agency within 20 days of receiving notice of the mother's intention to file the termination petition.
Hawaii		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible biological fathers are entitled to notice unless the court finds that there is good reason that notice should not be given. • Good reason includes if the father has not demonstrated a reasonable degree of interest, concern, or responsibility to the child. In these cases the court may terminate rights without serving notice of the termination to the father. 		
Kansas	The court will determine by deposition, affidavit or hearing, the identity of the father or possible father.	An identified possible father is entitled to notice, unless he has abandoned or neglected the child after knowledge of its birth	Notice is served through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal service • Certified mail, return receipt requested; or • In any manner the court may direct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He must appear at the termination hearing and claim custodial rights, or his rights are terminated.
Kentucky	Putative father is identified if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is known and voluntarily identified by the mother • He acknowledged the child as his own by asserting paternity within 60 days of the birth and prior to the termination proceeding • Recognized on birth certificate • Has contributed financially to the support of the child • Has married or lived openly with the birthmother 	Putative father is entitled to notice only if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is known and voluntarily identified by the mother • He acknowledged the child as his own by asserting paternity within 60 days of the birth and prior to the termination proceeding • Recognized on birth certificate • Has contributed financially to the support of the child 	If the putative father meets notice requirements, he is given notice in the same manner as any other party to an involuntary termination action.	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has married or lived openly with the birthmother 		
Maine	Mother files an affidavit of paternity, either naming the father or stating that he is unidentified	The putative father is entitled to notice	<p>The court where the affidavit of paternity is filed determines how notice is given.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the father is satisfactorily identified, he is given personal notice. If the father is unidentifiable, notice may be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the mother became pregnant or where the putative father is most likely to be located. 	<p>Must petition for parental rights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> within 20 days after notice of the adoption proceedings; or within a longer period of time as ordered by the judge
Maryland	Reasonable efforts in good faith are made to locate the natural father	The natural father is entitled to notice of the filing of an adoption petition.	Notice is given in a manner consistent with the rules of the state	The putative father must file a notice of objection to the adoption within the time stated in the show cause order
Massachusetts	Father may identify himself by asserting responsibility for the child by filing a parental responsibility claim	Notice of surrender or termination is given to a putative father who has previously filed a Parental Responsibility Claim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notice is provided by the Department of Social Services Notice is sent through registered mail to the address provided in the Parental Responsibility Claim 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within 30 days of termination notice a father must file for custody. If the father fails to file, termination is automatic. If father files, a court will determine his parental fitness and will then grant custody or will terminate his parental rights.
Michigan	Putative Father is identified by the mother or through a notice that the father may file.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to be given notice, a father must file a verified notice before the child's birth. Mother may also request that a putative father be notified of his right to file a claim of paternity. 	A Notice of the mother's intent to release or consent is given in a manner consistent with the rules of the state.	Upon receiving notice, putative father must file a claim of paternity before the expected date of confinement or before the birth of the child, whichever is later
Mississippi	Putative father not identified for	In the case of a child born out of	No notice necessary for putative	

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	purposes of consent.	wedlock, the father shall not be deemed to be a parent for the purpose of consent/notice	fathers	
Nevada	Identified by the mother	If known, the putative father is served with notice of termination of parental rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the father resides in Nevada, and if his or her place of residence is known to the petitioner, then personal notice must be served. • If the place of residence of the putative father is not known, then notice is served to the nearest known relative of that person 	In order to intervene the father must appear at the hearing and claim custodial rights.
New Hampshire	Father may file a claim of paternity with the state prior to the child's birth or prior to the mother's consent to an adoption.	Father is served notice if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is known by the state or mother; or • He has filed a claim of paternity indicating his willingness to and intent to support the child (must be filed before mother relinquishes her rights). 		Putative father has 30 days from the date of notice to prove that he is the father. If he is, then he may attempt to intervene in the courts.
New Jersey		Putative father is entitled to notice if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 120 days of the child's birth or prior to date of preliminary hearing (whichever occurs first) he has acknowledged paternity by amending the birth certificate or has filed a paternity action in court 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal notice is served. • If , after an adequate effort, personal notice cannot be effected because the whereabouts of putative father are unknown, notice is served via regular mail and by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the individual's last known address. • The court will determine that an adequate effort has been made to serve notice if inquiries have been made as to the individual's whereabouts through former employers or other parties who may have such information. 	May file a written objection within 20 days of receiving notification if a resident or within 35 days if a nonresident
North	Biological or possible biological	Biological or possible biological		<i>Prebirth determination of right</i>

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Carolina	fathers are identified and served notice by the individual filing the petition for adoption.	fathers are entitled to notice.		<i>to consent:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If during the pre-birth period, father received notice indicating mother's intent to place the child for adoption, he has 15 days to file a claim asserting that his consent is required. <i>Response to adoption petition:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Father must file a response to an adoption petition within 30 days after service of notice.
North Dakota	The court will cause an inquiry to be made (if needed) to identify the natural father.	Father is given notice if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He is the presumed father His relationship to the child has been determined by the court He is the child's legitimate father under the law. 		Natural father must appear and claim custodial rights.
Pennsylvania		Notice is required only if putative father has filed a claim of paternity prior to the institution of the proceedings.	Notice is given through personal service or by registered mail to putative father's last known address or by such other means as the court may require.	Putative father must appear at the scheduled hearing or he may lose his right to contest the adoption.
Rhode Island	The court shall cause an inquiry to be made of the mother in an effort to identify the father	Putative father is given notice if he is identified to the satisfaction of the court	If personal service is not possible because the father's whereabouts are unknown, the court shall determine whether there is a reasonable probability that publication of notice of the proceeding will lead to ascertainment of the father's identity or whereabouts. If this probability is sufficient the court may order publication.	In order to intervene, father must appear at the termination proceeding to claim rights to the child.
South		Putative father is entitled to notice	Notice must be given in the manner	Must file notice and reasons to

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Carolina		of adoption proceedings	prescribed by law for personal service of summons in civil actions. If notice cannot be effected by personal service, notice may be given by publication or by the manner the court decides will provide notice	contest, intervene or otherwise respond within 30 days of receiving notice of the adoption proceedings.
South Dakota	<p>Father has 60 days after the child's birth to acknowledge paternity through one or more of these actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicly acknowledging the child as his own and receiving it into his family • Placing his name on the birth certificate • Commencing a proceeding claiming his parental right; or <p>Putative father may be identified by the mother.</p>	Notice is given at least 30 days in advance of the adoption proceedings, unless a court has waived putative father's right to consent. Reasons for waiving consent include, willfully neglecting the child in terms of subsistence, education, and other needs with regard to the child's moral and emotional well-being, being incarcerated for a specific amount of time, habitual use of drugs or alcohol, abandonment of the child, and neglect of the child.	Father is given notice either personally or by publication.	
Vermont	Reasonable efforts are made to identify and notify the biological father, including inquiries of appropriate persons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice must be served to any person who the petitioner knows is claiming to be or who is named as the father or possible father, and whose paternity has not been judicially determined. • Notice need not be served upon a man who has executed a verified statement denying paternity or disclaiming any interest in the child. 		Must file a paternity claim within 20 days after receiving notice of proceedings unless a paternity action is already pending.
Virginia		Notice is required if the identity of the birth father is reasonable ascertainable.	Notice is given by registered or certified mail to the individual's last known address.	Father must object to the adoption proceedings in writing within 21 days of the mailing of notice of such proceedings, and appear at the hearing.
Washington	The petition for termination of the	Notice is required to be served to	Notice shall be served in the manner	Failure to respond to the

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	parent-child relationship shall identify any alleged father.	known alleged fathers.	prescribed in the superior court civil rules.	termination action within twenty days of service if served within the state or thirty days if served outside of this state, will result in the termination of his or her parent-child relationship with respect to the child
West Virginia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The father is identified through an affidavit signed by the birth mother. The court shall inspect the affidavit, consider any additional evidence that should be produced, and determine whether the father can be identified. 	<p>Within 20 days after the petition for adoption is filed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Putative father is entitled to notice of adoption proceedings if he is claiming to be the father and whose paternity has been established. Notice is also given to a putative father who has asserted or exercised parental rights and duties within 6 months of the child's birth if he knew the whereabouts of the child. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notice is to be served in accordance with rule 4 of the West Virginia rules of civil procedure. In the case of any person who is a nonresident or whose whereabouts are unknown, service shall be achieved: (1) By personal service; (2) by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, to the person's last known address, with instructions to forward; or (3) by publication 	Putative father must properly respond to the proceedings within the time frame and according to the procedures set out in the notice.
Wisconsin	Father files a declaration of paternal interest in the child.	Notice is required if the father has filed a declaration of parental interest prior to the termination of his parental rights	Notice shall be mailed, not later than 3 days from the date of the order for hearing and investigation.	