Can Child Support assist me with visitation and custody?

Child Support does not establish custody. You will need to contact a private attorney to handle custody issues. Child Support does have a program to establish or enforce parenting time orders.

Child Support

Child Support does the following:

- Manages over 32,000 child and spousal support cases
- Establishes paternity
- Establishes orders for child support
- Enforces existing support orders
- Establishes and enforces medical support
- Modifies existing child support orders
- Disburses collections
- Terminates child support when child reaches the age of majority
- Establishes and enforces parenting time orders for qualifying applicants

Stark County Job & Family Services

Division of Human Services
221 3rd St. SE, Canton, OH 44702
Cash, food, & medical assistance applications
Customer service: 1-844-640-OHIO (6446)
Child Care: 330-452-4661

Division of Children Services
402 2nd St. SE, Canton, OH 44702
Report child abuse and neglect: 330-455-KIDS
Foster care and adoption: 330-451-8789

Division of Child Support
221 3rd St. SE, Canton, OH 44702
Customer service: 330-451-8930
Payment information: JFS.ohio.gov/ocs

Executive Offices
221 3rd St. SE, Canton, OH 44702
Customer service: 330-452-4661

Visit our website at
StarkCountyJFS.gov

Stark County
Job & Family Services
Human Services - Children Services - Child Support

Paternity Testing

Determination of Fatherhood

Division of Child Support

Stark County Job & Family Services
221 3rd St. SE, Canton, OH 44702
Phone: 330-452-4661
StarkCountyJFS.gov

Paternity and Testing Information

What is paternity and how is it established?
Paternity establishment is the legal determination of being named the father of a child(ren). Legal determination of paternity can be completed at any time up to and including the child's 23rd birthday. For parents who are not married, paternity can be established in three ways.

- Parties can sign a Voluntary Acknowledgement of Paternity form at the hospital where the child is born, or at Stark County Job & Family Services (SCJFS) Child Support Division, or Health Department. By signing this form, both parties agree they are the biological parents of the child and that they choose to be named the legal parents.
- Parties can complete genetic testing at the Child Support Division.
- A court order to determine paternity can be issued through Juvenile Court or Domestic Relations Court.

Why is it important to establish paternity?
Establishing paternity provides a child with:

- A sense of identity and belonging;
- An increased likelihood of knowing the father's family medical history;
- Entitlement to the father's financial and economic benefits such as child support, social security benefits, health insurance, veterans benefits and pensions
- The right to inherit from the father in the event of his death.

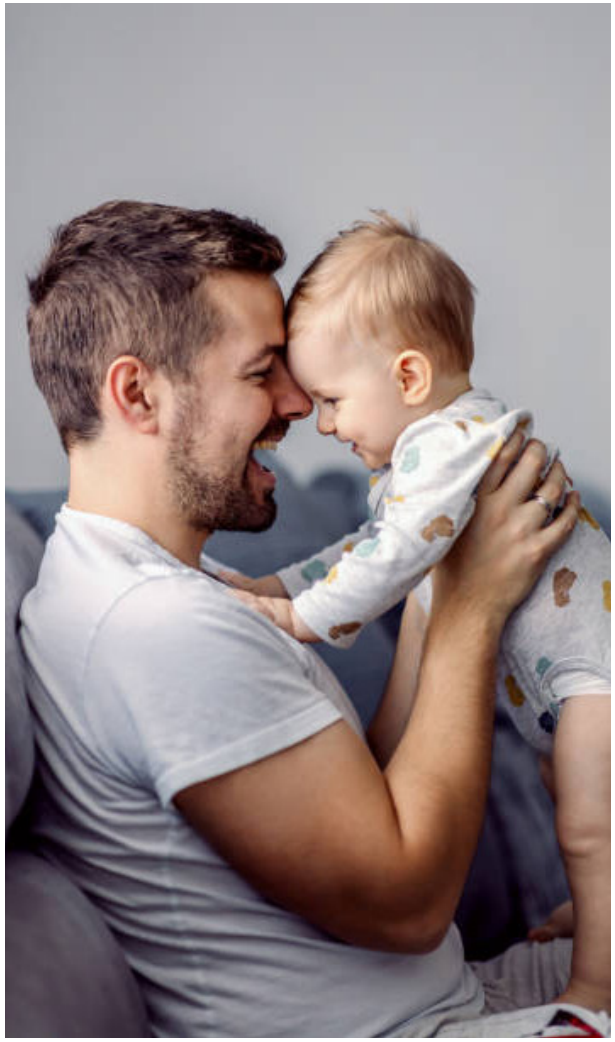
How is genetic testing done?
Genetic testing is done by using a swab to collect DNA samples from inside the mouth. Ideally, all parties have swabs taken. It is possible, though, to do testing without the mother's sample. The samples are sent to a lab to be analyzed. Swab results are usually returned in four-to-six weeks and the results must show at least a 99% probability of parentage in order to determine paternity.

What should I bring to the genetic testing appointment?
Each party must bring a photo id. If you have been court ordered to pay for the genetic testing, you must also bring a money order.

Questions for Potential Fathers

What if I am not sure that I am the father?
If you are not sure you are the father, do not sign the Voluntary Acknowledgement of Paternity form. Contact Child Support to make arrangements for genetic testing.

What should I do if I signed the Voluntary Acknowledgement of Paternity form, but now I don't think I'm the father?
If it has been 60 days or less since you signed the Voluntary Acknowledgement of Paternity form, contact Child Support and explain that you want to sign a rescission form. If it has been more than 60 days since you signed the form, you will need to contact an attorney.



Questions for Mothers

What if I am not sure who the father is?
If you are not sure who the father of the child is, contact Child Support to make arrangements for genetic testing.

What if I don't know where the father of my child is?
Child Support can assist you in trying to locate the alleged father so that paternity can be established.

Can paternity be established if the alleged father lives in another state, is incarcerated, or fails to show for genetic testing?
Yes, paternity can be established in these situations. If the alleged father is out of state, or fails to appear for the genetic testing appointment, Child Support will initiate court proceedings to order genetic testing. If the alleged father is incarcerated, his DNA sample will be collected while he is in prison.