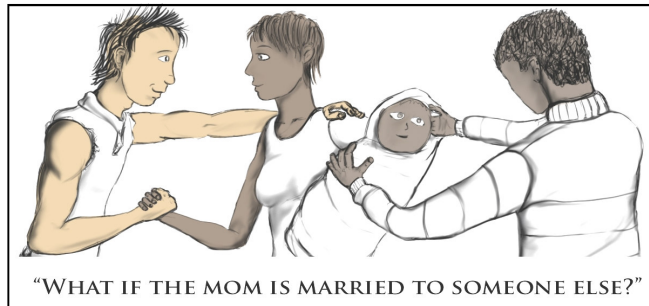


How Do I Establish Paternity If I Was Married During My Pregnancy But the Biological Father is Another Man?



Federal and state law says that if the mother was married at the time of conception, the time of birth, or any time in between then her husband is presumed to be the father of the child and a paternity acknowledgment cannot be completed.

The Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED) of DSS can help. (If you already have a divorce decree that establishes the paternity of the child(ren), then CSED will not be able to help you)

1. CSED will send the mother 2 copies of the Custodial Parent Application for Child Support Services.
2. She would fill both of them out—one for her husband (or ex-husband if now divorced) and one for the biological father.
3. She would then return them to CSED with a \$25 certified check or money order **for each application**. CSED will contact her in 6-8 weeks to get the process started. She can choose to request paternity establishment only OR request child support as well. IT IS HER CHOICE. (The only exception is if she is receiving TANF funds, in which case she will be required to pursue child support).
4. CSED will take the case to Family Court to ask the judge to establish paternity and a DNA test will likely be ordered. The man who comes back as the biological father will pay for the testing, currently \$30 per person for the man, the child, and the mother (if tested).

To request an application or if you have additional questions, please call the
South Carolina Parenting Opportunity Program,
Monday - Friday from 8:30am until 5:00pm, toll-free at 1.866.914.8786.

