



Denial of Parentage Notes and Instructions

The presumed or alleged genetic parent should carefully read all notes and instructions before completing and signing the *Denial of Parentage* (VS-DP1) form.

A VS-DP1 form is a legal form signed by a presumed or alleged genetic parent to state that the individual is releasing any parental claim of this child. If a married, or formerly married, parent claims that their spouse or ex-spouse (presumed parent or alleged genetic parent) is not the parent of the child and the parent of the child would like to acknowledge parentage, the spouse may complete a VS-DP1 form in the presence of a witness.

To be valid, both of the child's parents must also sign a *Voluntary Acknowledgment of Parentage* (VS-42B) form. These forms may be filed separately or simultaneously, but neither is valid unless both are filed with the RIDOH's Center of Vital Records. This form shall be signed by the presumed or alleged genetic parent who is seeking to relinquish parentage in the presence of a witness.

1. Parent Who Is or Was Formerly Married

When a parent is, or was, married within 300 days of the birth of the child, the name of the spouse shall be entered on the *Certificate of Live Birth*, including situations when:

- The spouse may not be the alleged genetic parent.
- The parent was legally married, and the child is born within 300 days after the termination of the marriage (unless the final divorce decree specifies that the spouse is not the natural parent).

2. If a VS-DP1 form is completed at hospital

If this form has been completed and given to the hospital before the *Certificate of Live Birth* is submitted to RIDOH's Center for Vital Records, the parent will NOT be listed as the parent on the birth certificate.

3. If a VS-DP1 form is not completed at hospital

If this form has not been completed before the hospital submits the *Certificate of Live Birth* to RIDOH's Center for Vital Records, the spouse or ex-spouse (presumed parent) will be listed as the parent on the birth certificate.

4. Legal Citations: R.I.G.L. § 15-8.1-804 UNIFORM PARENTAGE

Acknowledged Parent means an individual who has established a parent-child relationship pursuant to Article 3 of the *Uniform Parentage Act* by filing the *Voluntary Acknowledgment of Parentage* with RIDOH's Center for Vital Records.

Adjudicated Parent means an individual who has been adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction to be the parent of the child.

Alleged Genetic Parent means an individual who is alleged to be, or alleges that the individual is, a genetic parent or possible genetic parent of a child whose parentage has not been adjudicated. The term includes an alleged genetic father and alleged genetic mother.

The term does not include:

- i. a presumed parent,
- ii. a person whose parental rights have been terminated or declared not to exist or
- iii. a donor.

Intended Parent means an individual, whether married or unmarried, who manifests the intent to be legally bound as a parent of a child conceived through assisted reproduction or a gestational carrier agreement.

Presumed Parent is a person who is presumed to be the parent of a child if:

- The individual and the individual giving birth to the child are married to each other and the child is born during the marriage;
- The individual and the individual giving birth to the child were married to each other and the child is born not later than 300 days after the marriage is terminated by death, annulment, declaration of invalidity, divorce, or dissolution;
- The individual and the individual giving birth to the child married each other after the birth of the child and the individual at any time asserted parentage of the child and the individual agreed to be, and is named as, a parent of the child on the birth certificate of the child, or
- The individual resided in the same household with the child, and the individual and another parent of the child openly held out the child as that person's own from the time the child was born or adopted and for a period of two years thereafter, including periods of temporary absence, and assumed personal, financial, or custodial responsibilities for the child.

Notice of Proceeding Notice of Complaints for Orders of Parentage under § 15-8.1-804 shall be as required for:

- The individual who gave birth to the child unless a court has adjudicated that the individual is not a parent;
- An individual who is a parent of the child under RIGL § 15-8.1-804;
- A presumed, acknowledged, or adjudicated parent of the child;
- A person whose parentage of the child is to be adjudicated; and
- The Office of Child Support Services, in cases in which either party is a recipient of public assistance benefits from the Department of Human Services and has assigned the right to Child Support, or in cases in which either party has requested the services of the Office of Child

5. Instructions for the Completion of the VS-DP1 form:

- The presumed or alleged genetic parent must read and initial all the statements included on this form.
- The presumed or alleged genetic parent must sign the VS-DP1 form in the presence of a witness and the witness must sign this form.
- The presumed or alleged genetic parent may present the completed VS-DP1 form to the hospital prior to the submission of the *Certificate of Live Birth* or directly to RIDOH's Center for Vital Records at:

Rhode Island Department of Health
 Center for Vital Records
 3 Capitol Hill, Room 101
 Providence, RI 02908
 Phone: 401-222-2813
 Website: www.health.ri.gov/records

- If you need help understanding your rights and responsibilities as parents and the alternatives to, and consequences of, signing this form, call the Rhode Island Office of Child Support Services (OCSS) at 401-458 -4425, or view additional information on the OCSS website www.cse.ri.gov.