

**Want More Information?**

If you have questions not answered in this brochure, feel free to contact the Putative Father Registry staff directly.

Call: (888) 313-3100 (toll-free)  
**Email: [OhioPFR@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:OhioPFR@jfs.ohio.gov)**

or

The Ohio Putative Father Registry  
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services  
P.O. Box 183204  
Columbus, Ohio 43218-3204



Mike DeWine, Governor  
State of Ohio

Kimberly Hall, Director  
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

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# The Ohio Putative Father Registry

**The Place that Helps  
Connect Ohio's Families**



**Department of  
Job and Family Services**





The **Ohio Putative Father Registry** is a computerized database maintained by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. It allows male individuals to register if they believe they may have fathered a child and if they want to be notified if the child is placed for adoption.

The OPFR is routinely searched to determine whether children can be legally adopted. If a search shows that a child has a registered putative father, the putative father will be sent a notice stating the following:

The name and address of the agency or attorney conducting the adoption proceedings and their phone number.  
The putative father may seek legal counsel regarding his paternal rights.

The putative father may file a parentage action, which is a legal proceeding that could establish legal paternity.

The OPFR also helps other interested parties — such as mothers, prospective adoptive parents, attorneys and children services agencies — identify whether a putative father exists by submitting requests for searches in the registry.

### **Who is a putative father ?**

- Any male individual who:
- May be a child's father AND
- Was not married to the child's mother at the time of the child's conception or birth AND
- Has not adopted the child AND
- Has not acknowledged paternity of the child prior to an adoption petition being filed AND
- Has not been determined by a court to have a parent-child relationship with the child, prior to an adoption petition being filed.

### **When should a putative father register?**

Putative fathers should register before the child is born or within 15 days after the child's birth.

### **What if a putative father doesn't register?**

Then the individual's name will not be entered in the registry, and the child could be legally adopted without his knowledge or consent.

### **How often should a putative father register?**

Any time he believes he has fathered a child and meets the criteria listed at above. Individuals may register more than once.

### **Is there a fee to register?**

No, there is not. Registration is free.



### **How can I register?**

- You or your attorney may register online or by U.S. mail:
- Online: [pfr-pub.jfs.ohio.gov](http://pfr-pub.jfs.ohio.gov)
- U.S. Mail: Download the "Ohio Putative Father Registry — Registration for Fathers" at [jfs.ohio.gov/form01694](http://jfs.ohio.gov/form01694). Print it, fill it out, and send it to this address:  
Ohio Putative Father Registry  
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services  
P.O. Box 183204  
Columbus, OH 43218-3204

### **What information will I have to provide?**

- Your complete name
- Your current address
- The name of the child's mother
- The child (or children's) name, gender, and birth date. If you don't know the birth date, you can provide an estimate instead.

You also can provide the following information, if you would like:

- Your Social Security number
- The child's mother's Social Security number
- The mother's maiden name (if applicable)
- The mother's most recent address

