

Do not Be Left Out of the Picture: The Ohio Putative Father Registry



What is the Ohio Putative Father Registry?

The Ohio Putative Father Registry is a list of potential parents (“putative fathers”) who want to be informed if their potential child might be adopted. The registry is kept by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.



What does “putative father” mean?

A “putative father” is a person who thinks they may be a child’s parent but:

- (1) They are not married to the child’s other parent on or before the date of the child’s birth; *or*
- (2) They have not proven paternity of the child in a court or administrative proceeding in Ohio or another state before the child is to be adopted; *or*
- (3) They have not completed an acknowledgement of paternity affidavit before the filing of an adoption petition of the child.

NOTE: *Registration as a “putative father” on the Ohio Putative Father Registry does not make the person the child’s legal parent.*



Why does the Ohio Putative Father Registry matter?

The Ohio Putative Father Registry protects your rights as a potential parent. If the child’s other parent decides to place a child for adoption, the Ohio Putative Father registry must be checked. You will receive notice that you may be the parent of a child that is being placed for adoption.



How does the Ohio Putative Father Registry work?

Who: We suggest you register with the Ohio Putative Father Registry if you know someone who is pregnant and you may be the other parent; you think you are the parent of a child already born; or you are told an adoption is pending for a child you may be the parent of.

How: If you think you might be the parent of a child, you can register as a “putative father” with the registry. You can register online at <https://pfr-pub-jfs.ohio.gov/>. You can also complete the Putative Father Registration form (JFS 01694) and send it via email, fax, or mail as described on the form. You must complete the form fully. There is no cost to register. You must register for each child you believe you are the parent of.

When: You can register anytime during the pregnancy. If possible, you should register no

later than 15-days after the child is born. If you register after 15-days, your child could be adopted without your knowledge or agreement. If 15-days have passed, it may not be too late, you should still register.



Who can search the Ohio Putative Father Registry?

The parent that gave birth to the child, a public or private agency, or an attorney arranging a child's adoption may request to search the Ohio Putative Father Registry to decide whether someone is registered as the child's "putative father."

A person can request a search by applying online at <https://pfr-pub-ifs.ohio.gov/>. You can also fill out an Application for Search of the Ohio Putative Father Registry form the Putative Father Registration form (JFS 01695) and send it via email, fax, or mail as described on the form. You must complete the form fully.

**The information on this flyer is not legal advice.
If you are seeking representation or legal advice, please contact LASC or SEOLS.
An attorney-client relationship does not exist between you and LASC or SEOLS.**

Contact for Services: Intake line: 1-844-302-1800

www.columbuslegalaids.org

LASC provides services in Central Ohio and has offices in Columbus and Marion.

www.seols.org

SEOLS provides services in thirty-four counties in Southeastern Ohio and has offices in Athens, Chillicothe, New Philadelphia, Newark, Portsmouth, and Steubenville