



The **Essential** PATERNITY CHECKLIST

Protecting
Your Rights
as a Father.

www.lmknoxlaw.com

813-447-300



10150 HIGHLAND MANOR
DRIVE, SUITE 200, TAMPA,
FLORIDA 33605

The **Essential**

PATERNITY CHECKLIST

At L. M. Knox Law and Mediation, we understand that paternity cases involve sensitive, life-changing decisions. This checklist guides you through the steps for establishing and securing your rights as a father. Our team is here to support you at every stage, ensuring you feel empowered and confident.

- **Before Establishing Paternity:**

- ☐ **Understand Your Rights and Responsibilities:** Consult with your attorney about what establishing paternity means for your legal rights, financial responsibilities, and future relationship with your child.
- ☐ **Prepare Documentation:** Gather any documents that may support your case, such as proof of income, previous support records, or communication with the other parent.
- ☐ **Consider Financial Preparations:** Setting aside funds for legal costs can be beneficial. Your attorney can help you plan for potential expenses, including DNA testing and filing fees.



- **During the Paternity Process:**



Complete Necessary Testing: DNA testing may be required. Our team will ensure that testing is conducted at certified facilities so results meet all legal standards.



File for Paternity Recognition: Work with your attorney to prepare and file all legal paperwork, ensuring your rights are formally recognized. Filing accurately is essential to avoid delays and complications.



Establish Custody and Visitation: Developing a clear plan for time with your child is essential. Our attorneys will work with you to create a fair, enforceable custody and visitation schedule.



Determine Child Support Arrangements: Based on both parents' financial situations, child support arrangements must be calculated fairly. We'll ensure calculations are accurate and reflect your circumstances.



Plan for Court Proceedings: If your case goes to court, our attorneys will handle all aspects of your representation, from document preparation to advocacy. We take care of this process, so you don't have to face it alone.



- **After Paternity is Established:**



Finalize Custody and Support Agreements: Work with us to solidify all agreements, ensuring they're legally binding and enforceable.



Update Personal Records and Information: Ensure your records reflect your new legal status, which may involve updating insurance policies or other legal documents.



Plan for Future Modifications: Life changes, and so may your paternity-related responsibilities. Your attorney can help modify agreements to fit new circumstances, keeping your rights protected.



As you move through each stage, remember that you don't have to navigate this journey alone. L. M. Knox Law and Mediation is here to provide clarity, support, and peace of mind every step of the way.



813-447-3001



office@lmknoxlaw.com



www.lmknoxlaw.com