

Don't Be Left Out of the Picture

The Ohio Putative Father Registry (OPFR)

Most fathers would want to know if their child might be adopted. Sometimes, it can be hard to find a father to tell him. The father and mother might not be in contact with each other anymore. Ohio has created the Ohio Putative Father Registry (OPFR) to tell putative fathers if their child might be adopted.



What does "putative father" mean?

A putative father is a man who may be a child's father but:

- He is not married to the child's mother on or before the date that the child is born; or
- He has not established paternity of the child in a court or administrative agency proceeding in Ohio or another state before the date the child is to be adopted; or
- He has not completed an acknowledgment of paternity affidavit before the filing of an adoption petition for the child.

Registration with the OPFR does not make a man the legal father of a child.



What is the OPFR?

The OPFR is a list of putative fathers who want to be told if their child might be adopted. The OPFR is part of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.



How does the OPFR work?

If you think you are the father of a child (a putative father), you can register with the OPFR. You can apply for the OPFR by:

- Registering online at pfr-pub.jfs.ohio.gov, or
- Filling out the Putative Father Registration form (JFS 01694). You can get the form by clicking [here](#) or by calling the OPFR at 888.313.3100. You must then mail, email, fax, or deliver the form to the OPFR as indicated on the form.

There is no cost to register.

You must fill out the form completely and send it to the OPFR to register. If you do not fill out the form completely, the OPFR will send it back to you.



How can the OPFR help me?

If you think you are the father of a child, the OPFR can help you protect your rights.

A child's mother may decide to place the child for adoption. While the adoption is pending, Ohio law says the OPFR must be checked. If you register with the OPFR, you will be told if an adoption is pending for a child you may have fathered.



Who should register with the OPFR?

You should register with the OPFR if:

- Someone you know may be pregnant and you may be the father of a child, or
- You think you are the father of a child already born, or
- You want to be told about an adoption that is pending for a child you may have fathered.



You should register even if you are under age 18.

When should I register?

You can register anytime during the pregnancy, but no later than 15 days after the child is born.

If you do not register within 15 days after the birth, your child could be adopted without your knowledge or agreement.

A putative father should register his name for each child he believes he has fathered.

- Someone you know may be pregnant and you may be the father of a child, or
- You think you are the father of a child already born, or
- You want to be told about an adoption that is pending for a child you may have fathered.



You should register even if you are under age 18.

Who can ask to search the OPFR?

The mother of the child, a public or private agency, or an attorney arranging a child's adoption may request a search of the OPFR to determine whether someone is registered as the child's putative father.

A person can request a search the OPFR by:

- Applying online at pfr-pub.jfs.ohio.gov, or
- Filling out the Application for Search of the Ohio Putative Father Registry form (JFS 01695). You can get the form by clicking [here](#) or by calling the OPFR at 888.313.3100. You must then mail, email, fax, or deliver the form to the OPFR as indicated on the form.

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

How to contact SEOLS:

Athens Office **740.594.3558**
800.686.3669
Serving Athens, Gallia, Meigs, Morgan, Noble,
Vinton, and Washington Counties

Chillicothe Office **740.773.0012**
800.686.3668
Serving Fairfield, Fayette, Hocking, Jackson,
Pickaway, Pike, and Ross Counties

Newark Office **740.345.0850**
888.831.9412
Serving Knox, Licking, Muskingum, and Perry
Counties

New Philadelphia Office **330.339.3998**
800.686.3670
Serving Coshocton, Guernsey, Holmes, and
Tuscarawas Counties

Portsmouth Office **740.354.7563**
800.837.2508
Serving Adams, Lawrence, and Scioto Counties

Steubenville Office **740.283.4781**
800.837.4781
Serving Belmont, Carroll, Harrison, Jefferson, and
Monroe Counties