

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 5: General Case Management Section 05: Establishment of Paternity	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 6

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) helps figure out who a child’s father is by doing genetic testing. DCS may do this in cases where there is one (1) or more alleged fathers.

POLICY STATEMENT

DCS will ask the child’s mother and each alleged father to voluntarily complete genetic testing. For those who refuse or those who are incarcerated, DCS will petition the court to order them to complete genetic testing. If the child’s mother is not available, a single-parent test for an identified alleged father may be offered to the alleged father.

DCS will help a parent or alleged parent that lives outside of Indiana get genetic testing at a vendor site close to where he lives. This is called a “long arm draw”.

DCS will offer services to alleged fathers while awaiting the establishment of paternity.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 16-37-2-2: Birth Certificate and paternity affidavit; person responsible for filing or preparation; release of paternity affidavit](#)
- [IC 31-9-2-9: “Alleged father”](#)
- [IC 31-9-2-88: “Parent”](#)
- [IC 31-9-2-100: “Putative father”](#)
- [IC 31-14-2: Methods of Establishing Paternity](#)
- [IC 31-14-5-7: Registration with putative father registry](#)
- [IC 31-14-7-1: Presumptions of Paternity](#)
- [IC 31-19-5-1: Application of chapter](#)
- [IC 31-34-15-6: Filing of paternity action by local prosecuting attorney's office](#)