

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES TITLE IV-D POLICY MANUAL	
	Chapter 9: Paternity Establishment	Effective Date: 11/17/17
	Section 1: Federal Time Frames for Paternity Establishment	Version: 1 Revision Date: 11/17/17

BACKGROUND

Federal regulations require the Title IV-D Agency to initiate actions for paternity establishment in all Title IV-D cases in which a child was born outside of marriage and paternity has not already been established.¹ Paternity may be established administratively or by judicial action.² The Title IV-D Prosecutor does not need to attempt to establish paternity in any case involving incest or forcible rape or in any case in which legal proceedings for adoption are pending, if, in the opinion of the Title IV-D Prosecutor, it would not be in the best interests of the child to establish paternity.³

POLICY

Within 90 calendar days of locating the alleged father or non-custodial parent, a child support order must be established or service of process completed.⁴ In cases where paternity has not been established, it must also be established within the same 90 calendar days.⁵

Unsuccessful attempts to serve an alleged father must be documented in the case file and the statewide child support system. Diligent efforts to obtain good service must be periodically repeated when adequate location and identifying information is available.⁶

REFERENCES

- [IC 31-14-2-1](#): Exclusive methods of establishing paternity
- [45 C.F.R. § 303.3](#): Location of noncustodial parents in IV-D cases
- [45 C.F.R. § 303.4](#): Establishment of support obligations
- [45 C.F.R. § 303.5](#): Establishment of paternity

¹ 45 C.F.R. § 303.5(a)

² IC 31-14-2-1

³ 45 C.F.R. § 303.5(b)

⁴ 45 C.F.R. § 303.4(d)

⁵ 45 C.F.R. § 303.4(d)

⁶ 45 C.F.R. § 303.3(c); 45 C.F.R. § 303.4(d)

PROCEDURE

The Title IV-D Prosecutor may refer the case to the State Parent Locator Service in order to locate an alleged father or non-custodial parent after diligent efforts to obtain good service have been conducted.⁷

FORMS AND TOOLS

1. Chapter 8: Parent Locate

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

N/A

RELATED INFORMATION

N/A

⁷ See Chapter 8: Parent Locate