

**CHILDREN BORN AFTER AUGUST 1, 2016,  
TO UNMARRIED PARENTS**

For children born after August 1, 2016, to unmarried parents, the father is required to file into the suit record a judgment of paternity or an authentic act of acknowledgment pursuant to Civil Code Article 196. Alternatively, the father or mother can file a pleading to establish paternity, which may result in an order for DNA testing of the father and the child.

A copy of the authentic act of acknowledgment may be obtained from the hospital where the child was born or an authentic act of acknowledgment form can be filled out, signed by the father and notarized in the presence of two witnesses all of whom are required to sign the form. The mother may sign the form, but her signature is not required.

Should Father fail to provide the authentic act of acknowledgment to the Court or seek to establish paternity, he has no standing to proceed on the issue of child custody and visitation under R.S. 9:392.1. The form for an authentic act of acknowledgment of paternity can be obtained on the 15<sup>th</sup> JDC Family Court Forms' web page: <https://www.15thjdc.org/site140.php>