

# FATHERHOOD DEFINITIONS

## **LEGAL FATHER**

Refers to biological, adoptive, or fathers established by court order after a paternity test.

## **PUTATIVE FATHER**

A father named by the mother (might or might not be listed on the birth certificate) but not proven by any court. If paternity is established, he becomes the legal father.

## **PRESUMPTIVE FATHER**

Fathers presumed by the law to be the fathers. This can be rebutted by the father or a husband not in an intact family. Presumptive fathers are usually the husband of the mother at conception or birth or a father named by the court after a default paternity (paternity test scheduled but father does not show).

## **PRESUMPTIVE LEGAL FATHER**

Same as presumptive father.

