


Salt Lake City Paternity Lawyer in Utah

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Paternity means far more than being the biological father of a child. Fathers have a special bond with their children, and that connection must be protected. ***In the legal sense of the word, paternity concerns a father's legal rights.*** David Pedrazas is a [Salt Lake City paternity attorney](#) who helps Utah fathers through every aspect of their legal actions pertaining to paternity, including:

- The legal presumption of paternity
- Establishing paternity
- Taking a paternity action to court
- And more

The Legal Presumption of Paternity

Utah state law presumes that if a child is born to parents who are married, the husband is the child's biological father. On the other hand, if parents are not married, Utah makes no presumption as to the child's father.

When there is no paternal presumption, a father may wish to sign a voluntary declaration of paternity. A voluntary paternity declaration lets a Utah man affirm his status as the child's father biologically. If there is no paternal presumption on behalf of a father, there can be dire legal consequences. ***Fathers without a legal paternity status lose critical rights and privileges pertaining to child custody and visitation.*** In the event that the man splits with his significant other, all visitation and custody will be at the mother's discretion unless the father establishes paternity.

Utah law expressly provides three ways to establish paternity for an unmarried father. First, both parents may sign a voluntary Declaration of Paternity. Second, a father may apply for child support services in order to obtain an Administrative Paternity Order from the Office of Paternity Services. Under this method of establishing paternity, the father's paternity must be verified before the Administrative Paternity Order is granted.

Additionally, a court petition can request a judgment of paternity. This petition may come from the state of Utah, the child or one or both parents. If the petition is contested by the other parent, ***courts can order blood or genetic marker tests to conclusively determine paternity.***

Advantages of Establishing Paternity

Establishing paternity is essential so fathers have the same rights and responsibilities as any other father, regardless of their marital status. A parent's legal rights will be protected in important determinations such as custody and visitation rights. Paternity is not merely a father's rights issue, either. ***Unmarried mothers who wish to receive child support in Utah must be able to prove that the man they wish to receive child support from is truly the father.*** In instances where the father is looking to avoid paternal responsibility, a mother may have as much incentive to establish paternity as the father, if not more.

Children benefit greatly from establishing paternity as well. ***Establishing paternity ensures, first and foremost, that a child can and will be financially supported by both parents.***

Moreover, the child will be able to have access to information concerning the medical histories of both sides of the family. Further, the child is only entitled to a father's Social Security insurance, veteran benefits and inheritance assets if paternity is established.

A father can also have key insights regarding what is best for the child. Establishing paternity ensures the father's input will be heard on matters regarding where the child is raised as well as visitation concerns. Since a court makes these determinations largely on the basis of what is best for the child, such input is valuable.

Fathers Rights and Adoption in Utah

Fathers rights is an area of family law that has expanded significantly in recent years. In the past, mothers were automatically granted custodial rights while fathers were relegated to canned visitation that generally included every other weekend and six weeks in summer. However, one-size-fits-all visitation falls far short for many modern families because they basically relegated fathers to the role of bit players in the lives of their children. ***If you've got questions about fathers rights in adoption or other situations, contact SLC, Utah fathers rights attorney, David Pedrazas, for more information on adoption fathers rights.*** Give us a call today at 801-263-7078 to schedule a ***free 30-minute consultation.***

Unmarried Fathers Rights Concerning Adoption

Unmarried fathers with concerns about the child being given up for adoption now have much more legal leverage than their counterparts of the past. In all 50 states, **both** parents must provide formal consent for the adoption to be considered legal. However, until recently, Utah had a controversial loophole allowing mothers from other states to put their offspring up for adoption without the consent or knowledge of the biological father. In 2104, a group of fathers sued the state in federal court and won a victory that resulted in a partial closure of the loophole — ***mothers now have to reside in Utah for at least 90 days prior to putting their babies up for adoption and they must notify the biological fathers as a condition of offering the child for adoption.***

Unmarried Fathers Rights Before Birth

The law traditionally grants the majority of rights concerning unborn children to the mother. ***Unmarried fathers who wish to establish their commitment to an unborn child should make an effort to be financially responsible for at least a portion of the prenatal care to set a foundation for possibly filing for legal paternity rights after the child is born.***

Unmarried fathers have no rights under the law to access the medical records of the mother ***without her consent.*** Furthermore, when medical decisions regarding the fetus must be made, the preferences of the mother generally carry far more weight than those of the father.

However, ***unmarried fathers do have rights in all 50 states when it comes to adoption . Establishing legal paternity as early as possible is essential when it comes to exercising these rights.*** The Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld the rights of unmarried fathers in cases where a substantial relationship between the father and child had been established. However, individual states have nearly complete discretion to limit the rights of unmarried fathers in cases where paternity has ***not*** been established.

Evolving Laws

The 2014 ruling was just the beginning, however. Utah adoption fathers rights continue to evolve, which makes it imperative to obtain the services of a skilled and up-to-date fathers rights lawyer. Keep in mind that one of the first things a fathers rights adoption lawyer will tell you ***if you suspect that a woman may be planning on putting your child up for adoption is to take immediate steps to establish legal paternity.***

David Pedrazas Gives Utah Parents the Legal Counsel Needed to Navigate Utah Paternity

There are too many legal rights and benefits afforded to parents who establish paternity to ignore the process altogether. ***Utah parents need an attorney who will help them navigate any and all aspects of Utah paternity laws.*** The Law Office of David Pedrazas advises parents so they can establish paternity to protect legal rights and provide for the interests of their children. To learn more about establishing paternity for your particular circumstances, contact us to [receive a free case evaluation](#) and take the first step towards protecting your legal rights and your child.

For Questions on Fathers Rights and Adoption in Utah, Our Experienced Fathers Rights Attorney in SLC is Here to Help

Please feel free to contact the [Law Office of David Pedrazas](#) at your earliest convenience for more information on your rights concerning giving a baby up for adoption fathers rights, and other issues surrounding [legal options for unmarried fathers](#). SLC, Utah [Attorney David Pedrazas](#) has years of [experience](#) helping families in Utah. ***Don't go through the legal process alone, get the quality representation you deserve from a compassionate Salt Lake City, attorney.*** Let us help you protect your rights as a father, give us a call at 801-263-7078 for a ***[free case evaluation](#)***.

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