



## CLINICAL POLICY

### Acknowledgement of Parentage

**A. EFFECTIVE DATE:**

July 19, 2022

**B. PURPOSE:**

Per Connecticut General Statutes (17b-2-7-1 through 17b-27-7) and Public Act No. 21-15, An Act Concerning Adoption and Implementation of The Connecticut Parentage Act (CPA), birthing facilities are required to provide voluntary acknowledgment of parentage services for parents who meet legal requirements to do so at the time of the birth of a child or up to ten (10) business days after the birth parent's discharge from the facility. (NOTE: A business day is a day for which all CT VAP Program services are available, including notary services).

**C. POLICY:**

1. In compliance with the Connecticut General Statutes Section 17b-27 and Public Act No. 21-15, An Act Concerning Adoption and Implementation of The Connecticut Parentage Act (CPA), implementation of the Acknowledgment of Parentage Program will occur after an infant delivery at John Dempsey Hospital (JDH) prior to the birth parent's discharge or up to 10 business days thereafter.
2. The Voluntary Acknowledgment of Parentage (VAP) Program is to be offered to parents who meet the legal requirements under the CPA.
3. Information regarding the program as well as the Acknowledgment of Parentage form (VS - 56, Rev. 1/ 22) will be available on the OB/GYN unit. The Division of Clinical Social Work will be available to parents for counseling and information.
4. For the Acknowledgment of Parentage to be valid, both parents of the infant(s) must complete the Acknowledgment of Parentage form and the form must be notarized.
5. If the Acknowledgment of Parentage is not completed prior to the patient's discharge, arrangements for an appointment with the HIM Birth Registry or OB/GYN Hospital Unit Clerk (HUC) staff, may be scheduled within 10 business days after the patient's discharge.
6. If the Acknowledgement of Parentage is not completed at John Dempsey Hospital, the parents will be provided contact information for the designated Department of Social Services Liaison.

**D. SCOPE:**

This policy applies to the Labor & Delivery unit, Maternity unit and Health Information Management department.

**E. DEFINITIONS:**

1. Parentage – The legal relationship between a child and the parent of a child

**F. MATERIAL(S) NEEDED:**

Form VS-56 Acknowledgement of Parentage (Rev. 1/ 22)

Publication No. 22-01 Acknowledgement of Parentage for Your Child... And for you Booklet

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Following the birth of a child, parents who meet the legal requirements to voluntarily acknowledge parentage will be given information (Connecticut Department of Social Services Publications No. 22-01 and the Acknowledgment of Parentage Form VS-56) by the RN caring for the birth parent on the OB/GYN unit. Each parent will be given written and oral notice of their rights and responsibilities including rescission, prior to the signing and notarization of the form.
2. The parent(s) shall be given the opportunity to speak with staff in the Division of Clinical Social Work. The staff will be able to clarify information and answer questions about parentage acknowledgment.
3. In the event the parents express understanding of all information regarding the program, do not request counseling regarding the program or have received counseling, and choose to participate in the program, the Acknowledgment of Parentage form will be completed by the parents, reviewed by the notary public on the HIM Birth Registry or OB/GYN Hospital Unit Clerk (HUC) staff to insure correct completion. The birth parent and acknowledging parent signatures will be witnessed by a notary public.

a. Acknowledgement of Parentage forms should never leave the hospital's jurisdiction.

4. If either parent has questions about the Acknowledgment of Parentage form or requests counseling regarding the psycho-social aspects of the program, the parents are to be referred to the Social Work Department at 860 679-2287. If it is determined by the parents or by the staff that legal guidance is needed, social work will make an appropriate community referral.
5. Information from the completed Acknowledgment of Parentage form is sent electronically to the Department of Public Health via Conn VRS with the birth certificate information by the hospital's birth registrar who then forwards the white hard copy to:

Connecticut Department of Public Health  
Vital Records Section  
Parentage Registry  
410 Capitol Avenue, MS#11VRS  
PO Box 340308  
Hartford, CT 06134-0308

The Birth Parent will retain the pink copy. The Acknowledging Parent will retain the gold copy. The hospital will retain the yellow copy.

6. Parents returning to the hospital within 10 business days after the Birth Parent's discharge, in order to complete the acknowledgment form and establish parentage, will be assisted by HIM Birth Registry or OB/GYN Hospital Unit Clerk (HUC) staff. If the birth certificate information has already been transmitted via ConnVRS to DPH The HIM Birth Registry or OB/GYN Hospital Unit Clerk (HUC) staff will then forward the completed form to DPH along with the cover sheet provided by DPH.
7. Parents of infants transferred to the UConn Health campus after birth but prior to completion of the acknowledgement form whom seek to establish parentage, will be assisted by HIM Birth Registry or OB/GYN Hospital Unit Clerk (HUC) staff. No information will be transmitted by UConn Health HIM Birth Registry or OB/GYN Hospital Unit Clerk (HUC) staff via ConnVRS to DPH. The white copy will be mailed to DPH, the pink

copy is given to birthing parent, the gold copy is given to acknowledging parent, and the hospital retains the yellow copy.

8. Parents unable to complete the Acknowledgement of Parentage with UConn Health are referred to the Department of Social Services (DSS).

**G. ATTACHMENTS:**

None

**H. REFERENCES:**

CSG Section 17b-27

**I. SEARCH WORDS:**

Acknowledgement, Parentage, AOP

**J. ENFORCEMENT:**

Violations of this policy or associated procedures may result in appropriate disciplinary measures in accordance with University By-Laws, General Rules of Conduct for All University Employees, applicable collective bargaining agreements, the University of Connecticut Student Code, other applicable University Policies, or as outlined in any procedures document related to this policy.

**K. STAKEHOLDER APPROVALS:**

On File

**L. COMMITTEE APPROVALS:**

None

**M. FINAL APPROVAL:**

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <p>1. <u>Bruce T. Liang, MD (Signed)</u><br/>Bruce T. Liang, MD<br/><b>Interim Chief Executive Officer &amp; EVP for Health Affairs<br/>Dean, School of Medicine</b></p> | <p><u>07/20/2022</u><br/>Date</p> |
| <p>2. <u>Anne Horbatuck (Signed)</u><br/>Anne D. Horbatuck, RN, BSN, MBA<br/><b>Clinical Policy Committee Co-Chair</b></p>   | <p><u>07/19/2022</u><br/>Date</p> |
| <p>3. <u>Scott Allen, MD (Signed)</u><br/>Scott Allen, MD<br/><b>Clinical Policy Committee Co-Chair</b></p>  | <p><u>07/20/2022</u><br/>Date</p> |
| <p>4. Caryl Ryan (Signed)<br/>Caryl Ryan, MS, BSN, RN<br/><b>Chief Operating Officer, JDH<br/>VP Quality and Patient Services &amp; Chief Nursing Officer</b></p>        | <p>07/20/2022<br/>Date</p>        |

**N. REVISION HISTORY:**

Date Issued: 3/96

Date Revised: 9/99, 7/01, 2/03, 3/03, 7/13, 12/17, 11/20, 5/22, 7/22

Date Reviewed: 6/99, 7/99, 2/00, 8/05