

Legal rights and responsibilities of birth parents:

1 **An affidavit for voluntary relinquishment of parental rights must not be signed by the birth mother and presumed father until 48 hours after the birth of the child.** A man is a presumed the father if a) he is or was married to the birth mother 2) attempted to legally marry the birth mother if the child is born during the marriage 3) attempted marriage within 300 days of dissolution of the marriage or attempted marriage or lastly 4) if there is no marriage, but the man consents to be named as father on the birth certificate.

2 An affidavit for waiver of interest in a child may be signed before or after the birth of a child by a man who does not meet the definition of presumed father. Signing a waiver is not an admission of paternity of a child.

3 The birth parents will sign an affidavit of status before legal documentation is signed stating their name and descriptive information about themselves.

4 **Termination of parental rights will occur in court after the birth mother and potential birth fathers have signed appropriate paper work or potential birth father has not responded to service.**

5 A birth mother can designate a birth father as “unknown” if she knows no identifying information about him. She will report the information concerning him in the affidavit of status.

Within 30 days after the birth of the child, the agency will report the child’s birth to the paternity registry. A potential birth father can contact the registry to find out information concerning the birth of the child.