Amendment of Parentage

Introduction

Use the Amendment of Parentage (VS 21) form to add, remove, or replace a parent listed on a California Birth Certificate.

A second parent can be added without a court order if all the following are true:

- You are adding the second parent to a blank field on the current birth certificate.
- Parent(s) are available to sign the VS 21.
- One of the following applies to the birth parent:
  - Filed a Voluntary Declaration of Parentage (VDOP) form with Department of Child Support Services (DCSS).
  - Married to or in a State Registered Domestic Partnership (SRDP) with the genetic or *intended parent* being added.
    - *Intended parent*: non-genetic parent of a child resulting from assisted reproduction.

A court order establishing parentage is required if any of the following are true:

- You are removing or replacing a parent listed on the current birth certificate.
- Parent(s) are unavailable or unwilling to sign.
- You do not qualify to add a parent without a court order, as specified in the section above.
- A court has established a parent-child relationship.
  - If an adoption took place, please see Adoption Pamphlet.

Please note:

- A court order name change is required to change the registrant's (child) name.
- To change parent information after an adoption, please see Adoption Pamphlet.
- Please see page 9 for a list of frequently asked questions and answers.
- For other amendment types, please visit the CDPH-VR website at www.cdph.ca.gov

California Department of Public Health – Vital Records
(916) 445-2684 | CHSIVitalRecords@cdph.ca.gov
CA Relay: 711/1-800-735-2929

Mailing Address

Mail completed application and appropriate fee(s) to the address below:

CDPH – Vital Records
MS 5105
P.O. Box 997410
Sacramento, CA 95899-7410

- Amended certificates are mailed via USPS First Class and do not contain a tracking number.
- You may provide a self-addressed prepaid envelope that utilizes tracking with your request.

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Amendment of Parentage Checklist

☐ Properly Completed VS 21 Form

- ☐ Provide applicant name and mailing address.
- ☐ Part 1 matches the current birth certificate.
- ☐ Part 2 has the appropriate box selected. *Multiple boxes may be selected if you are changing the child's name via Court Order Name Change.*
    - *The child's court ordered name change listed in Part 2 will reflect on the new birth certificate.*
- ☐ Part 3 is filled out with the new parent information as it should appear on the new birth certificate*. This information is used to create the new birth certificate and must match any changes ordered by the court or as listed in the parentage documentation.*
- ☐ The signatures required in Part 4 are determined by which boxes are selected in Part 2. Have one or both parents sign and complete this section.
    - No signatures required for establishing parentage with a court order.

☐ Parentage Documentation

Required:

- ☐ A certified copy of the Voluntary Declaration of Parentage (VDOP) DCSS 0909 form that was filed with the Department of Child Support Services if the parents are not married to each other.

Optional:

- ☐ A photocopy of the parents' Marriage Certificate (if applicable).
- ☐ A photocopy of parents' State Registered Domestic Partnership declaration (if applicable).
- ☐ A photocopy of the child's birth certificate.

☐ Certified Copy of the Court Order Requirements (if applicable)

- ☐ Provides the child's name and date of birth as listed on the current birth certificate.
- ☐ Clearly identifies the parent-child relationship and what changes need to be made on the birth certificate.
    - A child's name change must be explicitly stated within the Adjudication order. Otherwise, a Court Ordered Name Change decree may be required.
- ☐ Contains original court certification stamp and court seal with court clerk's signature. *The appearance of the court seal will vary depending on the court of issuance*.
- ☐ Includes judge's signature or signature stamp.
- ☐ If documents are not written in English, must include a certified English translation.

☐ Payment

Check or money order in US dollars, made payable to CDPH Vital Records. **Do not send cash.**

- ☐ The fee is $26 to amend a birth record, which includes one certified copy of the newly amended record.
- ☐ Additional certified copies of the amended certificate are $31 each.

☐ Completed Notarized Sworn Statement

Form Instructions: Amendment of Parentage

Part 1

Must match the current birth certificate. This means:

- It should show any incorrect information **as it appears** on the current record.
- If any of the information in Part 1 was **previously amended**, the changes must be reflected in Part 1 of the VS 21 form.

Example:

Part 1: Information as it appears on current record.		
First Name (child) Jane	Middle Name Michelle	Last Name Johnson
Date of Birth - MM/DD/YYYY 09/15/2020	City of Birth Sacramento	County of Birth Sacramento
Full Name of First Parent Carrie Johnson	Full Name of Second Parent (if applicable)	

Amendment of Parentage Application

Part 2

Select the checkbox that corresponds to your parentage option and complete the corresponding fields. The box that is selected determines the supporting document(s) and signature(s) that are required. See page 4 for list of supporting documents.

Part 2: Select all that apply:

- ☐ We are married parents or in a State Registered Domestic Partnership..... *Both parents must sign in Part 4. Does not apply to stepparents.*
  Where/When: _____
- ☐ We are unmarried parents and attached a certified copy of the filed Voluntary Declaration of Parentage form..... *One parent must sign in Part 4.*
- ☐ Parentage established by court order..... *Part 4 not required.*
- ☐ Child's name changed by court order. List new name below..... *Part 4 required only if establishing **parentage** without a court order (see pamphlet).*
  First Name: _____
  Middle Name: _____
  Last Name: _____

- If you are adding a genetic or intended parent with a **marriage certificate** or **SRDP**, check the first box, and write the county, state, and date of the marriage or SRDP. Make sure to also complete the new certificate information in Part 3 and have both parents sign in Part 4.
  - If you have a court order to change the child's name, check the fourth box, and provide a certified copy of the court order. Write the child's new name in the provided fields and have both parents sign in Part 4.

Scenario: Adding father with a marriage certificate and changing child's name.

Part 2: Select all that apply:

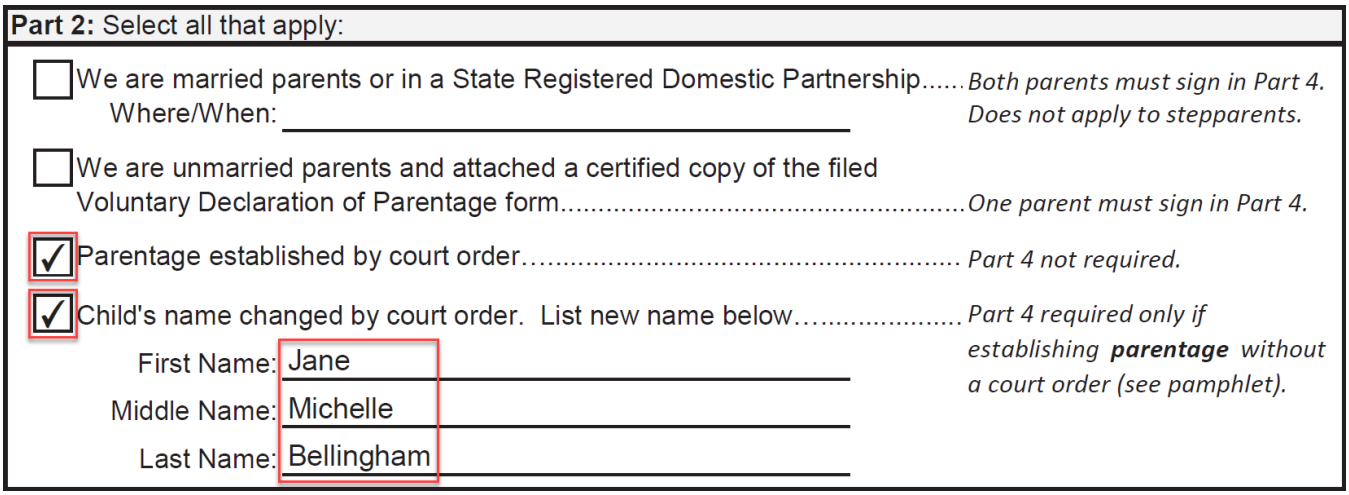
- ☑ We are married parents or in a State Registered Domestic Partnership..... *Both parents must sign in Part 4. Does not apply to stepparents.*
  Where/When: San Diego, CA 05/01/2005
- ☐ We are unmarried parents and attached a certified copy of the filed Voluntary Declaration of Parentage form..... *One parent must sign in Part 4.*
- ☐ Parentage established by court order..... *Part 4 not required.*
- ☑ Child's name changed by court order. List new name below..... *Part 4 required only if establishing **parentage** without a court order (see pamphlet).*
  First Name: Jane
  Middle Name: Michelle
  Last Name: Bellingham

Amendment of Parentage Application

- If you are establishing parentage with a **VDOP**, check the second box, and provide a certified copy of the filed VDOP form. Make sure to also complete the new certificate information in Part 3 and have at least one parent sign in Part 4.
  - If you have a court order to change the child's name, check the fourth box, and provide a certified copy of the court order. Write the child's new name in the provided fields and have one parent sign in Part 4.

- If you are establishing parentage with a **court order** and the child's name is not changing, check the third box, and provide a certified copy of the parentage order. Make sure to also complete the new certificate information in Part 3. Signatures are not required in Part 4.
  - If you have a court order that establishes parentage and changes the child's name, check the fourth box, and write the child's new name in the provided fields. Signatures are not required in Part 4.

Scenario: Adding a parent with a court order and changing child's name.



Part 2: Select all that apply:

☐ We are married parents or in a State Registered Domestic Partnership..... *Both parents must sign in Part 4. Does not apply to stepparents.*
Where/When: _____

☐ We are unmarried parents and attached a certified copy of the filed Voluntary Declaration of Parentage form..... *One parent must sign in Part 4.*

☑ Parentage established by court order..... *Part 4 not required.*

☑ Child's name changed by court order. List new name below..... *Part 4 required only if establishing **parentage** without a court order (see pamphlet).*

First Name: Jane
Middle Name: Michelle
Last Name: Bellingham

Amendment of Parentage Application

Part 3

Must list the new parent information as it should appear on the new birth certificate. *This information is used to create the new birth certificate and must match any changes ordered by the court or as listed in the parentage documentation.*

Example:

Part 3: Information as it is to appear on new record.		
First Parent - First Name Carrie	Middle Name	Last Name Johnson
Date of Birth - MM/DD/YYYY 12/05/1985	State/Country of Birth California	Relationship ☑ Mother ☐ Father ☐ Parent
Second Parent - First Name Jerry	Middle Name	Last Name Bellingham
Date of Birth - MM/DD/YYYY 11/24/1984	State/Country of Birth New York	Relationship ☐ Mother ☑ Father ☐ Parent

Part 4

The boxes selected in Part 2 determines what signatures are required. Have one or both parents sign and complete this section.

Exception: No signatures required for establishing parentage with a court order.

Part 4: Affidavit and Signatures	
I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that I am the genetic or intended parent as defined by Health and Safety Code 102750 and that the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.	
Signature Carrie Johnson	Printed Name Carrie Johnson
Date Signed 10/30/2023	Address (Street and Number, City, State, and Zip) 123 Main Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Signature Jerry Bellingham	Printed Name Jerry Bellingham
Date Signed 10/30/2023	Address (Street and Number, City, State, and Zip) 123 Main Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is an intended parent?
A: An "intended parent" is the non-genetic parent of a child resulting from assisted reproduction who wishes to be the legal parent of the child.

Q: Can I use the VS 21 to add a stepparent?
A: A stepparent may only be added via court order or through the adoption process, see the Adoption Process webpage (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHSI/Pages/Vital-Records-Adoption-Process.aspx).

Q: Where can I get a certified copy of a filed Voluntary Declaration of Parentage?

A: You may request a certified copy of a filed Voluntary Declaration of Parentage from the California Department of Child Support Services (DCSS). Please visit the Voluntary Declaration of Parentage forms webpage (parentage.dcss.ca.gov/forms/).

Q: How do I obtain a court order?
A: CDPH-VR suggests you contact a family law attorney for legal advice regarding the court process. CDPH-VR staff cannot provide legal advice, nor does CDPH-VR have information about the legal process. You may find helpful court process information by visiting the California court website (www.courts.ca.gov/). CDPH-VR accepts certified court orders from any U.S. state or territory.

Q: Where can I find application forms and informational pamphlets?

A: Application forms, including informational pamphlets for all amendment types, are located on the CDPH-VR Forms: Birth Death Marriage Certificates webpage (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/PSB/Pages/BirthDeathMarriageCertificates.aspx).

Q: What is the current processing time?

A: Current processing times are listed on the CDPH-VR Processing Times webpage (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHSI/Pages/Vital-Records-Processing-Times.aspx)

Q: Once the amendment is registered, what happens to the birth certificate?

A: The current birth certificate will be sealed and replaced with a new, one-page certificate.

Q: Will my supporting documents be returned?

A: Any supporting documents, including the certified copy of the court order, VDOP form, or sworn statement, will not be returned once the amendment is registered. Please keep copies of all documents submitted.

Q: What if I still have questions?
A: Please contact our Customer Service Unit by email at CHSIVitalRecords@cdph.ca.gov or telephone at (916) 445-2684.

Amendment of Parentage
(VS 21)

Applicant Name and Mailing Address

Name: _____ Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Calculate the Fee:

Amendment of Parentage	
Amendment Fee (1 amended copy included)	$26
Fee for Additional Copies ($31 each)	
Total Fee	

Please Read the Instructions Carefully

Step 1: Complete page 2 of this form and include information for all required fields.

Step 2: Complete and include a Notarized Sworn Statement (form VS 20) if you are requesting a copy of the amended record (this applies to most requests). A copy of this form is downloadable from: www.cdph.ca.gov (type VS 20 in the Search Field).

Step 3: Include supporting documentation (if applicable)

Step 4: Include a check or money order for fee calculated above. Make the check or money order payable to CDPH - Vital Records. **Please do not send cash.**

Step 5: If you have any questions on how to complete these forms, please email your questions to CHSIVitalRecords@cdph.ca.gov before submitting your package.

Step 6: Mail all of the items above to:

CDPH - Vital Records
MS 5105
P.O. Box 997410
Sacramento, CA 95899-7410

VS21

Amendment of Parentage (VS 21)
(page 2 of 2)

Part 1: Information as it appears on current record.		
First Name (child)	Middle Name	Last Name
Date of Birth - MM/DD/YYYY	City of Birth	County of Birth
Full Name of First Parent	Full Name of Second Parent (if applicable)	

Part 2: Select all that apply:

☐ We are married parents or in a State Registered Domestic Partnership... *Both parents must sign Part 4. Does not apply to stepparents.*
Where/When: _____

☐ We are unmarried parents and attached a certified copy of the filed Voluntary Declaration of Parentage form..... *One parent must sign Part 4.*

☐ Parentage established by court order…..... *Part 4 not required.*

☐ Child's name changed by court order. List new name below…..... *Part 4 required only if establishing **parentage** without a court order (see pamphlet).*

First Name: _____

Middle Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Part 3: Information as it is to appear on new record.		
First Parent - First Name	Middle Name	Last Name
Date of Birth - MM/DD/YYYY	State/Country of Birth	Relationship ☐ Mother ☐ Father ☐ Parent
Second Parent - First Name	Middle Name	Last Name
Date of Birth - MM/DD/YYYY	State/Country of Birth	Relationship ☐ Mother ☐ Father ☐ Parent

Part 4: Affidavit and Signatures

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that I am the genetic or intended parent as defined by Health and Safety Code 102750 and that the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature	Printed Name
Date Signed	Address (Street and Number, City, State, and Zip)
Signature	Printed Name
Date Signed	Address (Street and Number, City, State, and Zip)

VS21

Sworn Statement Instructions

- Only one sworn statement is required for multiple records.
- Sworn statements are not required for informational copy requests.
- Authorized individuals must complete the top portion of the sworn statement by signing and identifying their relationship to person listed on certificate.
- Sworn statements must be notarized for authorized copy requests. **Law enforcement, governmental agencies, and funeral establishments (death records only) are exempt from the notary requirement, but must complete the top portion of the sworn statement page.**
- A sworn statement notarized by a foreign notary must have an apostille attached. Foreign notarizations obtained by an Ambassador, Minister, Consul, Vice Consul or Consular Agent of the United States, or from a Judge of Court of record having a seal in a foreign county do not require an apostille.

Relationship to Registrant

List of Authorized Persons:

- The registrant or a parent, legal guardian, child, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner of the registrant.
- A party entitled to receive the record as a result of court order or an attorney or licensed adoption agency seeking the birth record in order to comply with the requirements of Section 3140 or 7603 of the Family Code. (Please include a copy of the court order.)
- A member of a law enforcement agency or a representative of another governmental agency, as provided by law, who is conducting official business. (Companies representing a government agency must provide authorization from the government agency.)
- Any person or agency empowered by statute or appointed by a court to act on behalf of the registrant or the registrant's estate (Include a copy of the power of attorney or documentation identifying you as executor.)
- An attorney representing the registrant or the registrant's estate.
- Any agent or employee of a funeral establishment who acts within the course and scope of employment and on behalf of persons specified in HSC § 7100 (a) (1)-(8).
- Surviving next of kin (As specified in HSC § 7100).

Sworn Statement

I,_____, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the
(**Applicant's** Printed Name)

State of California, that I am an authorized person, as defined in California Health and Safety Code Section 103526 (c), and am eligible to receive a certified copy of the birth, death, or marriage certificate of the following individual(s):

Registrant (Name of person whose certificate you are requesting)	**Applicant's Relationship to Registrant (Must be an authorized person)**

(*The remaining information must be completed in the presence of a Notary Public.)*

Subscribed to this _____ day of _____, 20___, at _____, _____.
(Day) (Month) (City) (State)

_____
(**Applicant's** Signature)

Certificate of Acknowledgment

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

State of _____

County of _____

On _____before me, _____, personally appeared _____,
(Insert name and title of the officer)

who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument. I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct

WITNESS my hand and official seal.
(SEAL)

_____
(Signature of Notary Public)