



Naming your baby



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Birth Registration Guide

Congratulations on the birth of your baby. You're about to make one of the first important decisions in your new baby's life: choosing a name.

Whatever name or names you choose, you have to register your baby's birth with Service New Brunswick's Vital Statistics Office. This booklet has been prepared to guide you through the registration process and help you register the name correctly.

Completing the registration of birth form

The document used to record the birth of your baby is very important and is officially called the *Registration of Birth: Form C-1*.

This document establishes the legal identity of your child and becomes a permanent record kept by the Vital Statistics office. The information recorded on this form is used to produce birth certificates.

The Registration of Birth Form should be completed and given to the hospital staff. It should be typed or printed in black ink. Once the form has been completed, read it over carefully, making sure any accents and hyphens are included, before signing. Any names placed in brackets will not be included when the birth is registered.

If you have any questions about how to fill out this form, please ask one of the maternity ward staff to help you. They have a guide book at the nursing station.

Choices, Choices, Choices

New Brunswick's legislation complies with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and allows the parent(s) several options for selecting the child's last name. The last name of the child is based on the relationship and marital status of the parents.

The *Vital Statistics Act* requires that all children born to the same parents be registered with the same last name.

If this is your first baby, you may choose from one of the options applicable to you.

A combination surname can be made up from the mother's and father's surnames and may, if desired, be joined by a hyphen. A combination surname can be composed of not more than two family names. If one or both parents have a combination surname, then you must decide which two single family names will be used for the baby's name.

The *Vital Statistics Act* also provides for the birth of a child to be registered showing a name that is determined in accordance with the child's cultural, ethnic or religious heritage. As well, a child's surname may be registered in its masculine or feminine form.



If you and your spouse are the parents of your baby

You can give your baby the surname you and your spouse share.

If you and your spouse don't share the same surname, you can give the baby either one of your surnames. The maiden surname of the mother, alone or in combination with the father's surname, are additional options available.

If you and your spouse divorce before the baby is born, information about your spouse is required on the birth registration form and both parents must sign.

If your husband is not the baby's father

A statutory declaration form available at the hospital must be signed stating that your husband is not the father and no information about him will be registered on the birth registration form. Once the statutory declaration is completed, there are several options available for the baby's surname.

The mother can give the baby her present surname or her maiden surname.

If the mother and the father of the baby agree, the information about the natural father of the child can be included on the registration form. Both parents would sign the birth registration form as well as a Statutory Declaration.

Then the baby can be given one of the following surnames:

- the mother's present surname
- the mother's maiden surname
- the father's surname
- a combination surname of the mother's present surname and the natural father's surname.
- a combination surname of the mother's maiden surname and the natural father's surname

If the mother and the father are not married to each other

It is the responsibility of both parents to register the birth of the child.

- Both parents are required to complete and sign the birth registration form if the child is given the father's surname or a combination surname. If this is the case, the information regarding the father must be included on the form.
- If both parents complete and sign the birth registration, the child may be given the mother's surname, the father's surname or a combination surname.
- If the father does not sign the registration form, all information about the father will be removed and the child will be given the mother's surname. The father's information will not appear on any birth certificates.



Birth Certificates

Service New Brunswick's Vital Statistics Office will issue free of charge a small size copy of the birth certificate for the baby upon completion of the registration process.

Subsequent requests for certificates will be subject to applicable fees.

Information

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