

Opening hours

Tuesday 9 a.m. to 12 noon
1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Monday, Thursday and Friday
by appointment

Wednesday closed

More information is available from the website
of the District of Potsdam-Mittelmark.
www.potsdam-mittelmark.de

Competent, expert and reliable help
is available from:

Professional services for financial aid to families
(Youth Welfare Office) of the
District of Potsdam-Mittelmark

Postal address:

Landkreis Potsdam-Mittelmark
FD Finanzhilfen für Familien
Niemöllerstraße 1
14806 Bad Belzig



**PATERNITY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
AND ASCERTAINMENT**

PM

Landkreis
Potsdam-Mittelmark



Leaflet on paternity acknowledgement and ascertainment

If the parents of a child are not married to each other, it is necessary in order to clarify the parentage of the child that paternity is acknowledged by the biological father or is ascertained in the context of legal proceedings. Acknowledgement can be declared by means of a certificate at the Youth Welfare Office, a registry office or by a notary. Certification by the Youth Welfare Office is generally free of charge.

In order for the acknowledgement to be valid, the mother of the child must agree. This agreement also requires certification.

Paternity acknowledgement and agreement are already possible prior to the birth.

This has the advantage that the father can be entered immediately on the birth certificate.

If the presumed father is not willing to acknowledge paternity voluntarily, or the mother is unwilling to agree with the paternity acknowledgement, paternity can be clarified by means of a paternity suit at the district court. This requires an application for the ascertainment of paternity, which can be made by the presumed father, the mother or the child, at the family court responsible for the residential location of the child.

Upon application by the mother, the child may be represented legally by the Youth Welfare Office in the context of advice and support in accordance with § 18 SGB VIII or guardianship under §§ 1712 - 1717 BGB, both in the preparation of a voluntary acknowledgement of paternity and in a paternity ascertainment procedure.

Acknowledgement of paternity creates a familial relationship between the father and child, with consequences in terms of support and inheritance rights.

Acknowledgement can be declared only in person in the presence of the certified person. The declarer must prove his or her identity with personal documents including a photograph.

In addition, the following documents are required for certification:

- Birth or parentage certificate of the child (in the case of post-birthacknowledgement)
- Maternity log (in the case of pre-birth acknowledgement)

If, at the time of the birth of the child, the mother is married to a man other than the biological father, and if divorce is pending, the husband must also provide his consent to the paternity acknowledgement.

In this case, the acknowledgement by the biological father takes effect only when the marriage has been legally dissolved.

It is possible that other forms of consent may also be required, e.g. if the legal competence of one of the parents is restricted due to minority. Then the consent of the legal guardians is required. If the mother is not conferred with parental custody, then the consent of the child is also necessary. This is declared by the legal guardian.

All such agreements can be certified officially at the aforementioned offices.

