

Becoming
a
teenage
father
is
no
joke.



Your responsibilities
under Connecticut Law

Your girlfriend is pregnant.

You should know that the

State of Connecticut has

laws about your situation.

Here are the most common

questions concerning

paternity laws:

Q Sure, there are paternity laws. But no one can prove I'm the father, right?

A Wrong. Blood and genetic tests can determine whether or not you are the father. If you are not sure or deny that you are the father, you can be required to take these tests and pay for their cost. Blood and genetic tests are also the surest and fastest way of proving you are not the father if you have been wrongfully accused.

Q But if I'm not married to the mother, I don't have any responsibility for the child, right?

A Wrong, Under Connecticut law a father, regardless of his age or whether or not he's married, has responsibilities for his children. In fact, the Department of Social Services' Bureau of Child Support Enforcement will locate a runaway father and arrange for paternity to be determined and make him pay costs associated with raising his child.

Q But, if I wasn't the only one to have sex with her, I'm off the hook, right?

A Wrong. If the court determines you to be the father, you can't escape your legal responsibilities, even if:

- you are a minor;
- your girlfriend had sex with others;
- she told you she was taking birth control pills;
- you told her to have an abortion or to put the baby up for adoption;
- she decides not to marry you;
- you don't see her any more.

And if you don't pay, the State can:

- take money from your paycheck or unemployment compensation benefits and;
- attach your bank accounts and;
- order you to repay all or part of

any public assistance paid to your child and;

- place a lien against your car or property and sell it to settle your debt and;
- take any state or federal income tax refund due to you and;
- prosecute you for criminal non-support.

Q These laws are designed to punish me, right?

A Wrong. Connecticut's paternity laws are designed to protect your child and to give him or her the benefits of having a legal father. These benefits are important to the child, because he or she has the right to:

- the knowledge that you are his/her father and;
- your support as he or she grows up and;
- your medical history and;
- inheritance from your estate

upon your death and;

- any other benefits such as Social Security, pension, veteran's benefits, etc.

Q But there's nothing in it for me, right?

A Wrong. These same laws also give you the opportunity to take an active role in raising your child.

Q I'd better find out more about my rights and responsibilities as a father under Connecticut law, right?

A Yes, that would be the smart thing to do. Contact the Department of Social Services' Child Support office in your area.

GET THE FACTS:

CALL YOUR LOCAL OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT.

Hartford
566-4890

Manchester
649-8344

New Haven
789-7996

Bridgeport
579-6825

Stamford
348-8727

Danbury
797-4022

New Britain
827-7166

Norwich
823-3325

Waterbury
596-4171

Torrington
482-5531

Middletown
344-2195

or call the toll-free Information and Problem
Resolution Unit (IPRU) anywhere in Connecticut:

1-800-228-KIDS

Prevent Teenage Pregnancy

The Department of Social Services' programs are available to all applicants and recipients without regard to race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, disabilities, learning disabilities, national origin, ancestry or language barriers.

The Department has a TDD/TTY line for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired and have a TDD/TTY:
1-800-842-4524. Auxiliary aids are also available for blind or visually impaired persons.

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