

GUIDELINES – LEGITIMATION **HOUSTON COUNTY, ALABAMA**

A legitimation may be petitioned for by the natural, or biological father of a child for the purpose of recognizing the child as his own. There must be no father listed on the birth certificate OR mother was not married to the person named on birth certificate.

Documents Required:

1. Father's Declaration of Legitimation
2. Certified copy of DNA paternity test OR a certified copy of court order establishing paternity
3. Consent of Mother
4. A certified copy of the child's birth certificate. **The certified copy must be dated within the last six (6) months.** If you were born in the State of Alabama, you may obtain a certified copy from the local Houston County Health Department (334-678-2800) or from the Center for Health Statistics (334-206-5418).
5. Valid Photo Identification of Mother and Father. (e.g., valid driver's license/non-driver's license/military ID)
6. Proof of residency. The Father of the minor must be a legal resident of Houston County. If the petitioner's driver's license shows an address out of county, out of state, or that is not petitioner's current address, proof of residency is required at the time of filing, e.g., a bill, deed or lease.
7. \$49.00 filing fee for legitimation and name change; \$34.00 filing fee for legitimation only. Payment must be made by CASH ONLY.

Additional Requirements:

1. The declaration must be completed in BLACK INK.
2. The declaration must be legible.
3. The declaration must be signed by two (2) witnesses.

Legitimations are processed by appointments only. Once you have completed your declaration and have ALL of the required items, call 334-677-4769 to schedule an appointment. You must bring the declaration and all required documents to the appointment.