



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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Local Commissioners Memorandum

Section 1

Transmittal:	21-LCM-03
To:	Social Services District Commissioners
Issuing Division/Office:	Child Support Services
Date:	March 31, 2021
Subject:	Questions and Answers Regarding 21-ADM-01, Acknowledging Parentage as the First Step in Providing Child Support Services
Contact Person(s):	otda.sm.dcse.parentage@otda.ny.gov
Attachments:	Attachment 1 – Questions and Answers Regarding 21-ADM-01, Acknowledging Parentage as the First Step in Providing Child Support Services Attachment 2 – Can they sign an Acknowledgment of Parentage?

Section 2

I. Purpose

This Local Commissioners Memorandum (LCM) provides Social Services Districts (districts) with supplemental information regarding the recently issued Administrative Directive 21-ADM-01, *Acknowledging Parentage as the First Step in Providing Child Support Services*.

II. Background

On February 12, 2021, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) issued 21-ADM-01 to advise districts of their responsibilities relating to acknowledging parentage, including implementation of the new LDSS-5171, *Acknowledgment of Parentage* form. These changes were made pursuant to the Child-Parent Security Act (“Act”), which legalized gestational surrogacy and extended the voluntary acknowledgment process for establishing parentage to individuals who rely on assisted reproduction to have children.

Prior to implementation, OTDA held several virtual sessions of a training titled *The Child-Parent Security Act and the Acknowledgment of Parentage* for hospital staff, birth registrars, and district staff. The purpose of the training was to explain the expanded availability of the voluntary acknowledgment process under the Act and to introduce participants to the new Acknowledgment of Parentage form.

The *Questions and Answers Regarding 21-ADM-01, Acknowledging Parentage as the First Step in Providing Child Support Services* document (**Attachment 1**) reflects questions asked by districts after the issuance of 21-ADM-01 and by participants during the above-referenced training sessions. The responses to these questions provide further guidance and should be of interest to all districts. In addition, we have created a flowchart, *Can they sign an Acknowledgment of Parentage?* (**Attachment 2**), that is intended for use as a quick reference tool to help staff determine if the parents may sign an Acknowledgment of Parentage under various circumstances.

III. Program Implications

Please share the attached reference documents with your child support enforcement units and support collection units, as well as the legal counsel for the Child Support Program.

Issued By:

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Division/Office: Child Support Services