



A. Who can Register a Birth?

1. If the **parents are married to each other**, either parent or both can sign the form in the presence of a registrar and register the birth.
2. If the **parents are not married to each other** at the date of birth, both parents must attend and sign the form in the presence of the registrar, or one of the parents can attend and sign the form in the presence of the registrar with a statutory declaration signed by the other parent. Contact the Civil Registration Office for the relevant forms.
3. If the **mother is married and her husband is not the father of the child** please contact your local Civil Registration Office for advice on what is required to register the birth.
4. If the **mother is Divorced or Separated** you should first speak with a Registrar who will advise you on the requirements to register your baby.

B. Compulsory Registration of Fathers - Naming a Father

From 10th December 2025, legislation on **Compulsory Registration of Fathers** requires a mother who is not married to the father of her child, to provide the father's details when she is registering their child's birth*.

Steps where a mother is naming a father:

1. A mother attending to register on her own, without the required statutory declaration from the father of the child will be asked to provide contact details for the father.*
2. The registration service will then write to him to advise of the steps he should take if he wishes to have his details entered as the child's father in the register of births.
3. A birth certificate can issue to the mother at this stage. It will only contain her details and the forename of her child. An updated certificate will be available after the registration has been fully completed.
4. Where the father does not accept his paternity or reply within 28 days, the birth will be registered without his details and with the mother's surname only. Where he accepts paternity the birth is registered to include his details.

B. Compulsory Registration of Fathers - Not Naming a Father

*This legislation also allows for a **mother who has a compelling reason for not naming the father**. She can provide a statutory declaration to declare:

- (a) that she does not know who his is
- (b) that she does not know where he is living, or
- (c) that it would not be in the best interests of the safety of her child to provide the registrar with the details of the child's father. Where this option is selected the mother must provide evidence to the registrar to show that this is the case. The evidence can be in any form that the mother has to give.



C. Choosing a Surname for your Child

The parents of the child must agree on the choice of surname for the child. If they cannot agree on a surname the birth can be registered without a surname for the child and it can be added at a later date, on payment of a prescribed fee.

The surname of the child to be entered in the register, shall, be that of the parents of the child as stated in the register of their births or of either of them or, with the agreement of An tArd-Chláraitheoir or a Superintendent Registrar, such other name as may be requested by both of the parents. **If you request a surname for your child which is not that of either of the parents you will be required to complete an additional application form and provide evidence as to your reasons for this request.**

D. What if my Child was Born as a Result of Donor Assisted Human Reproduction (DAHR)?

If your child was born as a result of a **DAHR procedure carried out at an Irish clinic since 4th May 2020**, you can record the details of the parent(s), including the non-biological parent, when registering the birth.

To complete a DAHR registration, you will need a certificate from the Irish DAHR facility and completed form **DAHR 19A** which you can request by emailing the General Register Office at dahr@welfare.ie

If your child was born here as a result of a **donor procedure which was carried out in a facility outside the State**, and only the details of the mother are to be recorded on the birth registration, the rules on Compulsory Registration of Fathers apply and the mother must sign a statutory declaration that she does not know who the father is.

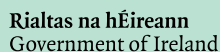
E. What if my Child was Born without a Doctor or Midwife Present?

Where a child is born at home without the attendance of a medical doctor or midwife, please see below:

1. It is **the duty of all parents of a child born without any medical intervention** to attend together and **notify the Superintendent Registrar of the birth within 5 working days** from the date of birth.
2. A birth notification form **HBNF1** must be completed with the required particulars of the birth.
3. Evidence that the birth occurred in line with the details being provided is required. Evidence to be supplied by the parents can be in whatever form is available to them and is not specified. The mother is advised to attend with her baby within 3 to 5 days after the birth at a local maternity hospital or family doctor and request that the details of the birth are completed on the form by medical personnel. A Statement from and details for the person who was present or assisted with the birth should also be provided as part of this notification and can be completed on the form.

If the Superintendent Registrar is not satisfied with the evidence provided, the notification will not be accepted and the birth cannot be registered. The parents will have an option to appeal this decision.

Note: Please ensure that the details you provide for the birth including the surname are correct as they cannot be changed once registration is complete except in certain specific circumstances.



An tSeirbhís um Chlarú Sibhealta



Part 2

Mother / Parent 1 details

Please enter the details of the parent(s) of the child whose birth is to be registered **as at the time of the child's birth**.

6. I wish to be registered as:

☐

Mother

☐

Parent

7. Forename(s):

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8. Surname:

(please note there is a limit of 30 characters for surnames on birth registrations)

9. Birth surname:

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10. Any other former surname:

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11. Your mother's birth surname:

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12. PPS Number:

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13. Occupation:

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14. Nationality:

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15. Country of birth:

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16. Address at time of child's birth:

County

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Eircode

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17. Your date of birth:

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y		

18. Civil status:

☐

Single (never married)

☐

Married

☐

Divorced

☐

Legally Separated

☐

Widowed

19. If married, are you married to your child's father:

☐

Yes

☐

No

20. Date of marriage:

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y		

21. Place of marriage:

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Note: If your marriage took place outside the Republic of Ireland, please bring your Original Marriage Certificate to register your baby. If the original marriage certificate is not in English or Irish, it must be accompanied by a Multilingual Standard Form (MSF) or an official translation. (We cannot accept laminated documents)

22. Phone number:

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23. Email address:

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Each person attending to register must bring a valid form of photographic identification with them i.e. current passports, drivers licence or national identity cards

Please enter the details of the parent(s) of the child whose birth is to be registered **as at the time of the child's birth**.

24. I wish to be registered as:

☐ Father

☐ Parent

25. Forename(s):

26. Surname:

(please note there is a limit of 30 characters for surnames on birth registrations)

27. Birth surname:

28. Any other former surname:

29. Your mother's birth surname:

30. PPS Number:

31. Occupation:

32. Nationality:

33. Country of birth:

34. Address at time of child's birth:

County

Eircode

35. Date of birth:

D D

M M

Y Y Y Y

36. Civil status:

☐ Single (never married)

☐ Married

☐ Divorced

☐ Legally Separated

☐ Widowed

37. Phone number:

38. Email address:

Note: If the **mother is attending alone** to register the birth and she is **registering the father of the child who she is not married to**, please contact your local Civil Registration Office for additional forms which are required

Each person attending to register must bring a valid form of photographic identification with them i.e. current passports, drivers licence or national identity cards

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