

LEGITIMATION AND YOU

Legitimation is the legal process for a non-married dad, in the State of Georgia, to become the legal father of his child.

558,742

Georgia State Children are Born Without a Legal Father Since 2010.

Data Source: Analysis of 1990-2019 Natality MicroData files from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics.



Four Ways Fathers Incorporated Can Help:



Watch our legitimation awareness video



Sign up for our legitimation training



Qualify for case management assistance



Get referred to trusted attorneys



Benefits of Legitimaion

- Establish paternity.
- Ability to request custody and/or parenting time.
- Gain authority to make legal decisions for your child.
- Both father and child having access to inheritance.
- Presumption of automatic custody in the event of loss of life of the other parent.
- Ability to file for child support in the event of having full custody.

Legitimation by-the-numbers

Percent of Birth to Unmarried Mothers



44.9%

GA is ranked 11th in the U.S. according to CDC.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/states/georgia/georgia.htm>

Policy Barriers in Georgia

It is no secret that policies and laws related to parenting have not served Georgia Dads with the best of intentions. One of the biggest policy barriers in the State of Georgia for non-married dads is the issue of Legitimation.

Fathers Incorporated believes that this is not only a critical issue for Georgia dads, but for our families and children as well.

How Do I Know If My Child is Not Legitimized?

If there is a legal marriage, there is a legal father and a legal mother, as well as an assumed biological father and a biological mother, to the child.

If the parties have never gotten married, Georgia law presumes that there is not a legal father of the child.

Even if you are the biological father of the child; without legitimation, you are not the legal father of the child.