

Parental Rights and Responsibilities – a summary of what this means

What is it?

Parental responsibility has been defined as all the rights, duties powers, responsibilities and authority for that child and their property. Having parental responsibility gives a parent legal rights in respect of that child.

What does it mean?

There are some very important things that a person who has parental responsibility will be able to do for their child. The following are just some of these important rights and responsibilities

- Providing a home
- Having contact
- Maintaining and protecting
- Discipline
- Education choices
- Religion choices
- Consent to medical treatment
- Taking the child out of the jurisdiction of the UK and consent to the child's emigration
- Naming the child and agreeing to any change of name

How do I get parental responsibility?

As the child's mother you automatically acquire parental responsibility when your child is born. If you are married to your baby's father at the time your baby is born then you both automatically have parental responsibility.

I am not married to my child's father/mother (or I wasn't when the child was born)

If you are not married to your baby's father/mother you will need to attend to register the birth and sign the register entry to ensure that you both have parental responsibility.

Can the father's details be added to my baby's birth certificate later?

Yes, you can re-register your child if you want to add the father's details to their birth certificate. The father will need to attend to sign the new register entry with you. The father of your baby will then have parental responsibility. Please contact us for the appropriate form to complete.

Since my baby was born I have married the father, however his details were already on the original registration, do I need to do anything else?

Yes you will need to re-register your child as you have now married the child's father. Please contact us for the appropriate form to complete.

My child is no longer a baby, can I still re-register?

Yes you can, there is no time limit to re-registration.

For more detailed information about Parental Rights and responsibilities visit

<http://www.gov.uk/parental-rights-responsibilities>