



British Embassy
Athens

British Embassy

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INFORMATION NOTE:

RECOGNISING A CHILD IN THE UK

'TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN'

There is no impediment to a father recognising a child in the UK and having his name added to the birth registration documentation at a later stage when the procedure as outlined below is followed:

When the parents of a child are not married to or in a civil partnership each other either at the time of conception or birth, both parents have to acknowledge paternity before the father's details can be recorded. This is usually done by both parents attending at the Register Office and both of them signing the birth entry. However, one parent can attend with a statutory declaration of acknowledgement of parentage made by the other parent.

If the father's details are not recorded in the birth entry there is a facility to re-register the birth to include his details at a later date. To do this either both parents attend to sign the new birth entry or one parent attends and the other completes a statutory declaration of acknowledgement of parentage. If a statutory declaration is made the Registrar General must approve the re-registration.

If the parents are not co-operating a re-registration may still be effected if a Parental Responsibility Order naming the father is issued by the Courts or the Courts issue a Declaration of Parentage. Again the Registrar General's authority is required for the re-registration.

A birth can also be registered or re-registered where one party produces a prescribed court order. The court orders accepted are:

Section 4 of the Children Act 1989

Paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 of the Children Act 1989

Section 4 of the Family Law Reform Act 1989

Section 9 of the Guardianship of Minors Act 1971

Section 11b of the Guardianship of Minors Act 1971

Section 4 of the Affiliation of Proceedings Act 1957

You can register a birth with a Parental Responsibility Agreement. It is the same criteria to re-register a birth to add the father's details as it is to add the father's details at the time of the initial birth registration.

As with all registrations in England and Wales information is given by the informant to the best of their knowledge and belief.

This information contained in this Note is general and should not be taken as a definitive statement of law'.

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