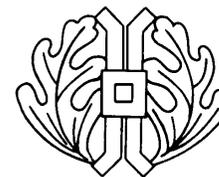


PREVENTIVE LAW SERIES

PATERNITY ACTIONS



Prepared by:
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WHAT ARE PATERNITY ACTIONS?

Paternity actions are court proceedings which establish a parent-child relationship. If child support is going to be ordered, a parent-child relationship must exist. Paternity actions are almost always brought in order to obtain child support.

HOW DO I BRING A PATERNITY ACTION?

There are two methods of bringing a paternity action: a private paternity action brought by one of the parents on his or her behalf and a paternity action brought through the Family Support Division of the San Diego County District Attorney's Office.

A private paternity action is the more expensive method because it usually requires the hiring of a private civilian attorney

A paternity action brought through the San Diego County District Attorney's Office is FREE. They will bring the paternity action on your behalf and provide you with the court forms that must be filled out to prosecute a paternity case.

HOW IS PATERNITY ESTABLISHED?

If paternity is contested by the party the action is asserted against, a blood test is usually ordered. Blood tests are highly accurate in establishing paternity. If a party does not want to submit to a blood test, the issue must be argued in court. Be advised that in most cases a judge will order a blood test nevertheless. Blood tests for paternity are not provided by the Navy or any Naval Medical Branch. The cost of a blood test can be in the few hundred dollars range. If you are found to be the parent of the child, you will have to pay for the blood tests. If it determined that you are not the parent of the child, you will in all likelihood not have to pay for the blood tests.

Legal Assistance Appointments:

For an appointment to see a legal assistance attorney, please contact the Legal Assistance Office, located in Building 610, Naval Air Station North Island, by telephone at (619) 545-6278.

RESOURCES

San Diego County District Attorney's Office – Family Support Division – 236-7600