

Frequently Asked Questions

Registering a Birth

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.

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 on their own with a statutory declaration signed by the other parent.

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.

Compulsory Registration of Fathers

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*.

- 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 *. 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- *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 that she does not know who he is or that she does not know where he is living. The mother can also provide a statutory declaration along with evidence where she wishes to declare 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.

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. A certificate of a birth which is registered without a surname for the child may not be accepted by some organisations.

The surname of the child to be entered in the register, shall, subject to any linguistic modifications, 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.

What if my child was born as a result of Donor Assisted Human Reproduction?

If your child was born as a result of Donor Assisted Human Reproduction (DAHR) since 4 May 2020 you can record the details of the parent(s), including the non-biological parent, when registering the birth. **The DAHR procedure must have taken place after 4 May 2020 and must have been carried out in a DAHR facility in the State.**

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

To complete a DAHR registration, you will need: a certificate from the Irish DAHR facility and a statutory declaration, signed by the parent(s). You can request a birth registration form and statutory declaration by emailing the GRO at dahr@welfare.ie

Data Policy

The Civil Registration Service administers Ireland's system of civil registration. A person is required by law to provide personal data to register a life event (birth, stillbirth, death or marriage) and personal data may be exchanged with other public bodies and public authorities where provided by law. A person is required to provide personal data when applying for certificates of vital events and for searches of indexes to civil registers. The data policy of the Civil Registration Service is available at www.gov.ie/deasp/privacystatement or in hard copy on request.