

MONTEREY COUNTY



Department of Child Support Services

752 La Guardia Street
Post Office Box 2059
Salinas, CA 93902
mcdcss.org

Phone: 866/901.3212
TDD: 831/769.9306
Facsimile: 831/796.0232

STEPHEN H. KENNEDY, Director

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: MARIA CUELLAR
Public Information Officer
(831) 769-8782

PRESS RELEASE

MONTEREY COUNTY COLLABORATES WITH THE LOCAL HOSPITALS

MONTEREY- The Department of Child Support Services establishes orders for support and enforcement of such orders, but the establishment of paternity for children is a very important component of the child support program. Establishing paternity is a critical step toward creating lifelong relationships between parents and children. It also gives the children access to genetic and medical information about their ancestors, an informational source of increasing importance regarding their health. It provides the children with the possibility of acquiring inheritance rights and establishing eligibility under certain benefit programs, such as Social Security and Workers Compensation benefits.

The Paternity Opportunity Program became State law in California on January 1, 1995 after several counties in California conducted pilots in the early 90's and it establishes a legal link between unmarried fathers and their children. As a result, Monterey County Department of Child Support Services has been collaborating with local hospitals using the Paternity Opportunity Program for new parents since 1997.

Monterey County Department of Child Support Services proudly recognizes the following local hospitals for their leadership and commitment in helping Monterey County families establish paternity for 2,466 children through the Paternity Opportunity Program during the Federal Fiscal year 2013: Natividad Medical Center established paternity for 1,381 children; Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital for 695 children; Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula for 144 and George L. Mee Memorial Hospital for 246 children. Each hospital was presented with a certificate of appreciation from the Department of Child Support Services while attending their board meetings. This is all a concerted effort to establish paternity for children here in Monterey County.

Applications for services are available at 1-866-901-3212 or by visiting the DCSS website at mcdcss.org. Child Support Services now has extended office hours from 7:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. during the regular work week.