This document is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on 2026-11-04 and available online at https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2026-22462, and on https://govinfo.gov

4184-41-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

[Office of Management and Budget #: 0970-0171]

Submission for Office of Management and Budget Review; Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity and Required Data Elements for Paternity Establishment Affidavits

AGENCY: Office of Child Support Enforcement, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Request for Public Comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is requesting a 3-year extension of the Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity and Required Data Elements for Paternity Establishment Affidavits. No changes are proposed to the data elements, but burden has been adjusted to reflect improved automation for processes.

DATES: Comments due **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**.

ADDRESSES: The public may view and comment on this information collection request at: https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAViewICR?ref_nbr=202610-0970-006. You can also obtain copies of the proposed collection of information by emailing infocollection@acf.hhs.gov.

Identify all emailed requests by the title of the information collection.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description: Section 466(a)(5)(C) of the Social Security Act requires states to enact laws ensuring a simple civil process for voluntarily acknowledging paternity via an affidavit. The development and use of an affidavit for the voluntary acknowledgment of paternity would include the minimum requirements of the affidavit specified by the Secretary under section 452(a)(7) of the Social Security Act and give full faith and credit to such an affidavit signed in any other state according to its procedures. The state must provide that, before a mother and putative father can sign a voluntary acknowledgment of paternity, the mother and putative father must be given notice, orally, or through the use of video equipment, and in writing, of the alternatives to, the legal consequences of, and the rights (including any rights, if one parent is a minor, due to minority status) and responsibilities of acknowledging paternity. The affidavits will be used by hospitals, birth record agencies, and other entities participating in the voluntary paternity establishment program to collect information from the parents of nonmarital children.

Respondents: The parents of nonmarital children, state and tribal agencies operating child support programs under

Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, hospitals, birth record agencies, and other entities participating in the voluntary paternity establishment program.

Annual Burden Estimates

Annual burden estimates have been updated to remove ordering brochures from the annual burden hours calculation, as ordering brochures is not required under federal guidelines. With advancements in automation and digital service delivery, most partners now rely on electronic devices located in hospitals and other automated public-facing platforms to deliver education on paternity establishment and highlight the benefits of signing the paternity establishment affidavit. This results in a 40 percent overall decrease in estimated annual burden compared to the most recently approved annual burden estimates (2024). The number of responses and estimated time per response for the remaining instruments have not changed.

Instrument	Total Number of Respondents	Annual Number of Responses Per Respondent	Average Burden Hours Per Response	Annual Burden Hours
Training	135,155	1	1	135,155
Paternity Acknowledgment Process	1,372,816	1	0.17	233,379
Data Elements	54	1	1	54
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:				368,588

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 666(a)(5)(C) and 652(a)(7).

Samantha L. Illangasekare,
ACF/OPRE Certifying Officer.

[FR Doc. 2026-22462 Filed: 11/3/2026 8:45 am; Publication Date: 11/4/2026]