

Illegitimate Children/ Wedlock Checklist

Unmarried illegitimate children under age 21 may be entitled to ID card benefits and privileges under the following criteria:

- A birth certificate alone does not satisfy document requirement for an illegitimate child of a male member.
- Each states maintain a procedure to allow a male parent to voluntarily acknowledge paternity of a child born out of wedlock. These states Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity (VAP) forms are used to determine eligibility of dependent child status. The sponsor will present the notarized form to nearest DEERS site to have the child enrolled. The sponsor cannot authorize anyone to act on his or her behalf of perform this enrollment action. NOTE: the child may be enrolled at any time before their 21st birthday or before their 23rd birthday, if attending an institution of higher learning as a full time student.
- The state VAP form and a birth certification are required to add the child to DEERS. Note: The forms are scanned into DEERS as part of the enrollment process.
- After being added into DERRS, the sponsor has 60 days to remove the child from DEERS per USD P&R memorandum, 28 Jan 08, Determination of Dependency for Health Care benefits for Out-of-Wedlock Children.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Female member's illegitimate child of record
 - o Child's birth certificate to include mother's and child's full name
- Male member's illegitimate child of record (The father's name on the birth certificate does not establish paternity for ID entitlements).
 - o Paternity test alone are not sufficient for DEERS enrollment
 - o For those whose paternity has been judicially determined by a court a Child's birth certificate and legal documents showing paternity was judicially determined referred to as a "court order of paternity." Court order for child support is not sufficient unless it also reflects the legal paternity of the parent.
 - o For those whose paternity has not been judicially determined by a court need a notarized Voluntary Acknowledgement of Paternity (VAP signed by both parents), or affidavit of paternity recognized by court of competent jurisdiction in the Unites States, may be used in lieu of a consent order of paternity and notarized by overseas legal office when the member is stationed in a foreign court only a written SJA opinion determining the parents/child relationship, if the member is stationed in a foreign country.
- Spouse's illegitimate child (the sponsor's illegitimate step-child)
 - o Marriage certificate and child's birth certificate.