

# SENATE BILL 163

# UNIFORM PARENTAGE ACT



## Summary:



Today's families are diverse and may look different than they did 20 years ago. To protect parent-child relationships and ensure families are properly acknowledged, language and processes regarding parentage have been updated.

### 1. INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

This legislation makes small but impactful changes, such as:

- ▶ **Referring to all parents as parents rather than a gendered term (e.g., mother or father).** These terms are still used to recognize or address people, and it also allows for the inclusion of how people may self-identify. These changes include the use of “**person who gave birth**” and “**acknowledged parent**.”
- ▶ **Replacing the term paternity with parentage.** Historically, paternity referred to establishing a legal father. Parentage is more inclusive of establishing a second parent for a child.



### 2. PRESUMED PARENTAGE

- ▶ **Under Oregon law, the spouse of a person who gives birth is automatically considered their child's legal parent, commonly referred to as a presumption of parentage.** This legislation added new parameters based on the age of the child if the spouse may not be the genetic parent.
- ▶ **Starting in 2027, the Oregon Center for Health Statistics will have a three-party voluntary acknowledgment for families to address parentage.** This form will be available when everyone involved agrees on the child's parentage, including situations where the Oregon Child Support Program can't assist.

