

## Differences between a Recognition of Parentage (ROP) and a Paternity Adjudication

<p align="center"><b>Recognition of Parentage (ROP)</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Paternity Adjudication (court order)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Informal – do not have to go to court</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Formal – must go to court</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>can be done at any time</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>can be done at anytime to establish paternity, but time limits apply if trying to prove non-paternity in some cases</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>both parents must agree and if the woman is married to another, the husband must sign also</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>goes forward regardless of agreement</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>is the legal basis for child support and a separate child support action is needed</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>child support is part of same legal action</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>is the legal basis for father to bring court action for custody or parenting time</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>custody/parenting time is part of the same legal action</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>quick, inexpensive, no right to free lawyer but you can pay to have one</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>court actions can take a long time</b></li> <li>• <b>if low-income right to have a free, court appointed lawyer</b></li> <li>• <b>if not eligible for free lawyer, can be costly</b></li> </ul>