



Beaufort Memorial HOSPITAL

Congratulations on the upcoming birth of your child. We are excited that you have chosen Beaufort Memorial Hospital to take care of you and your child during your delivery and recovery. We take great pride in providing the best care possible to all of our patients and are confident that our Birthing Center team will surpass your expectations with the service, compassion, and clinical care that you will receive during your stay at Beaufort Memorial Hospital.

Soon after the birth of your baby and you are all resting comfortably in your recovery room, a birth certificate analyst will come to your room to collect the data needed to make sure that your child's birth certificate is filed correctly and in a timely manner. Our goal is to take as little of your time as possible so that you can enjoy your new child and your guests as much as possible. *In order to protect your privacy, we will suggest that your guests leave the room for the few minutes that we need to gather the information we need and complete all of the paperwork.*

You will receive a "Mother's Worksheet for the Child's Birth Certificate" with your post partum instructions. In order for us to be as quick as possible, please have that completed before we come to the room. It asks for

- Your baby's name
- Information about the mother
- Whether you want to request a social security number for your baby, and
- Your marital status and father information

If you are married, your husband's name will automatically be added to the birth certificate. *If you are unmarried and want the father's name to be added to your child's birth certificate, you can complete a Paternity Acknowledgment Affidavit for free at the hospital.*

Both parents must be present to complete the Paternity Acknowledgment Affidavit, MUST HAVE A VALID PICTURE ID CARD, and have their social security number (if you have one). If the father is not present or either of you do not have your ID and/or social security number, then the hospital cannot add the father's name to the birth certificate.

We have included a brochure about the Paternity Acknowledgment process for you to read before your delivery. If you have any questions you can call the birth certificate office at Beaufort Memorial Hospital at 843-522-5744 or you can call the South Carolina Parenting Opportunity Program at 866-914-8786.

Sincerely,

The Birth Certificate Staff
Beaufort Memorial Hospital

Note: If you are married (and/or separated), and your husband is not the father of your child, the biological father will not be able to be added to the Birth Certificate at birth. Federal law presumes that your husband is the father of the child and the hospital will not be allowed to add the father's name to the birth certificate. To find out your options, you can call the South Carolina Parenting Opportunity Program at 866-914-8786.