

Registrar General's Department - Jamaica
STATUS (adding of father's particulars)

In accordance with the Status of Children's Act of 1976 in Jamaica, which amended the Registration Births and Deaths Act - where a child is born to unwed parents and they require that the father's particulars be added to confirm paternity, then the process of STATUS (adding of father's particulars) is done.

However, where a child is born to unwed parents, who subsequently marry each other, the process of re-registration is required instead in order to add father's particulars to the child's record.

Status is a legal process to add father's particulars and will include the signing of statutory declarations, among other things. Both parents are authorized to carry out this process and if a third party is being asked to do this then they require specific authorization (power of attorney or other notarized authorization). It is normally expected that the declarants will appear to submit the application.

If on examining your birth certificate the name and particulars of an individual's father does not appear at lines 9-12 then a status is required if the parents did not subsequently marry each other (see re-registration if the parents subsequently marry each other).

If the parents are unmarried at the time a child is born, the father must accompany the mother to the Local District Registrar and provide his particulars and sign the registration form as father. If this is not done his particulars will not appear on the child's birth record and there is need to carry out an application for STATUS to show the father's acceptance of paternity.

Exceptions:

1. If the mother is deceased, proof of death is required and the father's signature alone will suffice.
2. Also if the mother cannot be found and there is evidence to substantiate this then the father's signature alone will suffice.

3. If the father is deceased then an application needs to be submitted to the family court where the necessary investigations will take place and the RGD will be instructed to act.

Application process:

A status includes an application form for a Birth Certificate and a completed statutory declaration.

The mother and father must sign the joint declaration in the presence of any of the following persons who must affix their signature, stamp and seal:

1. Justice of the Peace/ Notary Public (if overseas)
2. Principal or Headmaster
3. Clerk of the Courts
4. Minister of Religion
5. Lawyer
6. Registered Medical Practitioner

This declaration is stating that

1. The mother acknowledges that the named father is the father of the child
2. The father accepts paternity and gives other relevant personal information as required on the form
3. Both parents signed before a Justice of the Peace or a person occupying any of the six (6) categories listed above.

The Registrar General requires that photo Identification (ID) of both parents be provided. If any of the parents are unable to personally attend to submit the application to the Registrar General's Department then the IDs must be certified/notarized as being a true copy.

The cost of applying for a Status is as published in the Jamaica Gazette and is subject to change at any time.

\$800 Regular service (two copies)

\$1,350 7-day service (two copies)

\$3,700 Express service (two copies)

- The Status application form is now accessible on our RGD website at www.rgd.gov.jm.com, - select application, and then scroll to Status – print form, complete and provide the necessary evidence.
- An interview is not usually required for a STATUS application but is usually required in respect of an application to add father's particulars by the re-registration process.
- Original documents are required and this completed STATUS application cannot be submitted online.