



Formerly known as: The Assisted Conception Unit

The Centre for Reproductive & Genetic Health

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PATIENT INFORMATION

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Where a child's father and mother were married to each other at the time of the child's birth, they shall each have parental responsibility for the child. If you are not married to your baby's mother you do not automatically have parental responsibility.

An important change for unmarried couples came into force on 1st December 2003. Prior to this date an unmarried father did not automatically have parental responsibility for the child. This change in the law now makes it easier for unmarried fathers to get equal parental responsibility: all you have to do is for both parents to **register the birth of your baby together**.

Parental responsibility for your child gives you important legal rights as well as responsibilities. Without it, you don't have any right to be involved in decisions such as where they live, their education, religion or medical treatment. With parental responsibility, you are treated in law as the child's parent, and you take equal responsibility for bringing them up.

Before this change, you could only gain parental responsibility by later marrying the child's mother, signing an official agreement with the mother, or getting a court order. You can still get responsibility in these ways – you might want to think about this if you have other children.

I confirm that I have read and understand the implication of the above.

Signed..... Ref. No.....

Signed..... Date.....

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