

## Definitions of "Parent" and Related Variations in Child Welfare

*\*Citations and summaries of significant legislation appear below. The legislation summaries do not encompass the entire law; click on the citation to view the statute in its entirety. Inclusion of the summaries below should not be construed to mean that such laws represent "best practice" or are in accord with federal law.*

Properly defining in statute the relationship between a "legal" parent and child is important because it preserves and establishes familial relations. The caretaking relationship between an adult and child is becoming increasingly important for state governments to understand and appropriately define, especially when a child is abused or neglected.

Almost every state has some statutory provision that defines parent, mother, father, or related variations, such as caregiver, parent-child relationship, relative, putative father, etc. At least eight states include definitions for "relative" in their statute, including a very broad definition for relative in California and Wisconsin and at least twenty-four states include some definition for the term father and its related variations. Following is a compilation of state statutes that include the definition of parent, and the related variations, in child welfare. These definitions may exist in a state's Child Welfare Code, Family Code, Domestic Relations Code, etc

State	Citation	Statutory provision
AL	<a href="#">Ala. Code § 26-17-102</a>	"Parent-child relationship" means the legal relationship between a child and a parent of the child. The term includes the mother-child relationship and the father-child relationship. "Parent" means an individual who has established a parent-child relationship. "Putative father" means the alleged or reputed father.
	<a href="#">Ala. Code § 26-18-3</a>	"Parents" are defined as the legal or biological parents of a child, inclusive of a putative father.
	<a href="#">2008 Ala. Acts, HB 39, Act 376</a>	Provides a comprehensive procedure for establishing the parentage of a child. The legal father may be one of the following: an un-rebutted presumed father, a man who has acknowledged paternity, an adjudicated father as the result of a judgment in a paternity action, or an adoptive father or a man who consents to an assisted reproduction.
AK	<a href="#">Alaska Stat. § 39.50.200</a>	"Mother" or "father" includes a biological parent, an adoptive parent, and a stepparent.
AZ	<a href="#">Arizona Rev. Stat. §8-101</a>	"Permanent guardian" means a legal guardian appointed by the court.
	<a href="#">Arizona Rev. Stat. §8-201</a>	"Custodian" means a person, other than a parent or legal guardian, who acts as a parent to the child or a person to whom legal custody of the child has been given by order of the juvenile court.

AR	<a href="#">Ark. Ann. Code § 20-18-701</a>	<p>"Father" means the biological male parent of a child.</p> <p>"Putative father" means any man not legally presumed or adjudicated to be the biological father of a child but who claims or is alleged to be the father of the child.</p>
	<a href="#">Ark. Ann. Code § 9-27-303</a>	<p>"Caretaker" means a parent, guardian, custodian, foster parent, or any person ten (10) years of age or older who is entrusted with a child's care by a parent, guardian, custodian, or foster parent, including, but not limited to, an agent or employee of a public or private residential home, child care facility, public or private school, or any person responsible for a child's welfare.</p> <p>"Putative father" means any man not deemed or adjudicated under the laws of the jurisdiction of the United States to be the biological father of a juvenile who claims or is alleged to be the biological father of the juvenile.</p>
	<a href="#">2009 Ark. Acts, SB 464, Act 749</a>	<p>"Caretaker" means a parent, guardian, custodian, foster parent, or any person ten (10) years of age or older who is entrusted with a child's care by a parent, guardian, custodian, or foster parent, including, but not limited to, an agent or employee of a public or private residential home, child care facility, public or private school, or any person responsible for a child's welfare, but excluding the spouse of a minor. "Parent" means a biological mother, an adoptive parent, or a man to whom the biological mother was married at the time of conception or birth or who has been found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be the biological father of the child.</p>
CA	<a href="#">CA Family Code § 7601</a>	<p>"Parent and child relationship" means the legal relationship existing between a child and the child's natural or adoptive parents to which the law confers or imposes rights, privileges, duties, and obligations. The term includes the mother and child relationship and the father and child relationship. A man is presumed to be the natural father of the child if he and the child's mother are or have been married to each other and the child is born during the marriage, before or after the child's birth he and the child's mother have attempted to marry each other, or he receives the child into his home and openly holds out that the child as his natural child.</p>
	<a href="#">CA Family Code § 6550</a>	<p>"Relative" means a spouse, parent, stepparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, half sister, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, first cousin, or any person denoted by the prefix "grand" or "great," or the spouse of any of the persons specified in this definition, even after the marriage has been terminated by death or dissolution.</p>
CO	<a href="#">Colo. Rev. State § 19-1-103</a>	<p>"Adoptive parent" means an adult who has become a parent of a minor through the legal process of adoption.</p> <p>"Biological parent" or "birth parent" means a parent, by birth, of an adopted person.</p> <p>"Birth parents" mean genetic, biological, or natural parents whose rights were voluntarily or involuntarily terminated by a court or otherwise. "Birth parents" includes a man who is the parent of a child prior to the termination of parental rights.</p> <p>"Custodian" means a person who has been providing shelter, food, clothing, and other care for a child in the same fashion as a parent would, whether or not by order of court.</p> <p>"Grandparent" means a person who is the parent of a child's father or mother, who is related to the child by blood, in whole or by half, adoption, or marriage.</p> <p>"Parent" means either a natural parent of a child or a parent by adoption. "Parent includes a natural parent having sole or joint custody, regardless of whether the parent is designated as the primary residential custodian, or a parent</p>

		<p>allocated parental responsibilities with respect to a child, or an adoptive parent. "Parent" does not include a person whose parental rights have been terminated pursuant to the provisions of this title or the parent of an emancipated minor.</p> <p>"Physical custodian" means a guardian, whether or not appointed by court order, with whom the juvenile has resided.</p> <p>"Stepparent" means a person who is married to a parent of a child but who has not adopted the child.</p>
CT	<a href="#">Conn. Gen. Stat. § 45a-707</a>	<p>"Parent" means a biological or adoptive parent.</p> <p>"Relative" means any person descended from a common ancestor, whether by blood or adoption, not more than three generations removed from the child.</p>
	<a href="#">Conn. Gen. Stat. § 45a-604</a>	<p>"Father" means a man who is a father, including a man who, executes a binding acknowledgment of paternity and a man determined to be a father.</p>
DE	<a href="#">Del. Ann. Code tit. 13, § 8-102</a>	<p>"Acknowledged father" is a man who has established a father-child relationship.</p> <p>"Adjudicated father" means a man who has been adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction to be the father of a child.</p> <p>"Alleged father" is a man who alleges himself to be, or is alleged to be, the genetic father or a possible genetic father of a child, but whose paternity has not been determined. The term does not include: a male donor, a man whose parental rights have been terminated, or a presumed father.</p> <p>"Determination of parentage" means the establishment of the parent-child relationship by the signing of a valid acknowledgment of paternity.</p> <p>"Presumed father" means a man who is recognized as the father of a child until that status is rebutted or confirmed in a judicial proceeding.</p>
	<a href="#">Del. Code Ann. tit. 13 § 901</a>	<p>"Birth parent" means the biological mother of the child; the named father of a child who consented to the termination of his parental rights; or the father whose paternity is presumed.</p>
FL	<a href="#">Fla. Ann. Stat. § 409.256</a>	<p>"Putative father" means an individual who is or may be the biological father of a child whose paternity has not been established and whose mother was unmarried when the child was conceived and born.</p>

	<a href="#">Fla. Stat. Ann. § 39.01</a>	<p>"Caregiver" means the parent, legal custodian, permanent guardian, adult household member, or other person responsible for a child's welfare.</p> <p>"Family" means a collective body of persons, consisting of a child and a parent, legal custodian, or adult relative.</p> <p>"Parent" means a woman who gives birth to a child and a man whose consent to the adoption of the child would be required. If a child has been legally adopted, the term "parent" means the adoptive mother or father of the child. The term does not include an individual whose parental relationship to the child has been legally terminated, or an alleged or prospective parent.</p> <p>"Permanent guardian" means the relative or other adult in a permanent guardianship of a dependent child.</p> <p>"Relative" means a grandparent, great-grandparent, sibling, first cousin, aunt, uncle, great-aunt, great-uncle, niece, or nephew, whether related by the whole or half blood, by affinity, or by adoption. The term does not include a stepparent.</p>
GA	<a href="#">Ga. Ann. Code § 19-8-1</a>	<p>"Biological father" means the male who impregnated the biological mother resulting in the birth of the child.</p> <p>"Legal Father" is a male who has legally adopted the minor, the minor was conceived or born while the father was married to the mother, married the legal mother of the child after the child was born and recognized the child as his own, has not surrendered or has had his rights terminated, or has been determined to be the father by a final paternity order.</p>
	<a href="#">Pending - 2009 Ga. Laws, SB 292</a>	<p>"Caregiver" means any person providing a residence for a child or any person legally obligated to provide or secure adequate care for a child, including a parent, guardian, or legal custodian.</p> <p>"Legal mother" means the female who is the biological or adoptive mother of the child and who has not surrendered or had terminated her rights to the child.</p> <p>"Parent" means either the legal father or the legal mother of the child.</p>
HI	<a href="#">Hawaii Rev. Stat. § 584-4</a>	<p>A man is presumed to be the natural father of the child if he and the child's mother are or have been married to each other and the child is born during the marriage, before or after the child's birth he and the child's mother have attempted to marry each other, while the child is under the age of majority, he receives the child into his home and openly holds out that the child is his natural child, he submits to court-ordered genetic testing and the results do not exclude the possibility of his paternity of the child, or a voluntary, written acknowledgement of paternity of the child is filed with the Department of Health.</p>
ID	<a href="#">Idaho Ann. Stat. § 16-2002</a>	<p>"Presumptive father" means a man who is or was married to the birth mother and the child is born during the marriage or within 300 days after the marriage is terminated.</p> <p>"Parent and child relationship" includes all rights, privileges, duties, and obligations existing between parent and child, including inheritance rights, and shall be construed to include adoptive parents. "Unmarried biological father" means the biological father of a child who was not married to the child's mother at the time the child was conceived or born.</p> <p>"Parent" means the birth or adoptive mother, the adoptive father, the biological father of a child born or conceived during the father's marriage to the birth mother, or the unmarried biological father who consented to the adoption of the child.</p>

	<a href="#">Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 750 § 45/2; 45/5</a>	"Parent and child relationship" means the legal relationship existing between a child and his natural or adoptive parents, to which the law confers or imposes rights, privileges, duties, and obligations. It includes the mother and child relationship and the father and child relationship. A man is presumed to be the natural father of the child if: he and the child's mother are or have been married to each other and the child is born during the marriage; he and the mother have married each other and he is named as the father on the birth certificate; he and the child's mother have signed an acknowledgement of paternity; or he and the child's mother have signed an acknowledgement of parentage.
IL	<a href="#">Ill Comp. Stat. Ann. 750 § 50/1</a>	"Parent" means the father or mother of a lawful child of the parties or child born out of wedlock. For the purpose of the Adoption Act, a person who has executed a final and irrevocable consent to adoption or a final and irrevocable surrender for purposes of adoption, or whose parental rights have been terminated by a court, is not a parent of the child who was the subject of the consent or surrender. "Immediate relatives" means the biological parents, the parents of the biological parents and siblings of the biological parents. "Putative father" means a man who may be a child's father, but who (1) is not married to the child's mother on or before the date that the child was or is to be born and (2) has not established paternity of the child in a court proceeding before the filing of a petition for the adoption of the child. The term includes a male who is less than 18 years of age. "Putative father" does not mean a man who is the child's father as a result of criminal sexual abuse or assault.
	<a href="#">Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 705 § 405/1-3</a>	Defines "parent" as the father or mother of a child and includes any adoptive parent. It also includes a man whose paternity is presumed or has been established under the law of this or another jurisdiction or who has registered with the Putative Father Registry and whose paternity has not been ruled out under the law of this or another jurisdiction. Defines "guardianship of the person" of a minor as: someone with the duty and authority to act in the best interests of the minor; someone who is subject to residual parental rights and responsibilities; someone who makes important decisions in matters having a permanent effect on the life and development of the minor; and someone who is concerned with his or her general welfare.
IN	<a href="#">Ind. Ann. Code §§ 31-9-2-9; 31-9-2-88; 31-9-2-100; 31-9-107</a>	"Alleged father" means any man claiming to be or charged with being a child's biological father. "Parent" means a biological or an adoptive parent. Unless otherwise specified, the term includes both parents, regardless of their marital status. "Putative father" means a male of any age who is alleged to be or claims that he may be a child's father but who is not presumed to be the child's father and has not established paternity of the child before the filing of an adoption petition. "Relative" as it relates to adoption means an adoptive or whole blood related parent; a sibling; or a child. "Relative" as it relates to children in need of child protective services means a maternal or paternal grandparent; an adult aunt or uncle; or any other adult relative suggested by either parent of a child.
IA	<a href="#">Iowa Ann. Stat. § 144.12A</a>	"Father" means the male, biological parent of a child. "Putative father" means a man who is alleged to be or who claims to be the biological father of a child born to a woman to whom the man is not married at the time of the birth of the child.

<b>KS</b>	<a href="#">Kan. Ann. Stat. §§ 38-1111; 38-1114</a>	"Parent and child relationship" means the legal relationship existing between a child and the child's biological or adoptive parents to which the law confers or imposes rights, privileges, duties, and obligations. It includes the mother and child relationship and the father and child relationship. A man is presumed to be the natural father of the child if: he and the child's mother are or have been married to each other and the child is born during the marriage; the man and the child's mother have married or attempted to marry, before and after the child's birth; the man recognizes paternity of the child; genetic test results indicate a probability of 97 percent or greater that the man is the father of the child; and the man has a duty to support the child under an order of support regardless of whether the man has ever been married to the child's mother.
<b>KY</b>	<a href="#">Kentucky Rev. Stat. § 205.710</a>	"Parent" means a biological or adoptive mother or father of a child born in wedlock or a father of a child born out of wedlock if paternity has been established in a judicial proceeding or in any manner consistent with the laws of this or any other State.
<b>LA</b>	<a href="#">La. Children's Code Art. 116</a>	"Parent" means any living person who is presumed to be a parent under the Civil Code or a biological or adoptive mother or father of a child.
<b>ME</b>	<a href="#">Maine Rev. Stat. 18-A, § 9-102</a>	"Parent" is the legal parent or the legal guardian when no legal parent exists. "Putative Father" means a man who is the alleged biological father of a child but whose paternity has not been legally established.
	<a href="#">Maine Rev. Stat. § 19-A, § 1601</a>	"Alleged Father" is a man who is alleged to have engaged in sexual intercourse with a child's mother during a possible time of conception of the child or a man who is presumed to be the father of a child.
<b>MD</b>	<a href="#">Md. Family Law § 5-301; 5-306</a>	"Caregiver" means a person with whom a child resides and who exercises responsibility for the welfare of the child. A man is the father of a child if: "the man was married to the child's mother at the time of the child's conception or birth; the man is named as the father on the child's birth certificate and has not signed a denial of paternity; the child's mother has named the man as the child's father and the man has not signed a denial of paternity; the man has been adjudicated to be the father; the man acknowledged himself, orally or in writing, to be the child's father and the mother agrees; or on the basis of genetic testing, the man is indicated to be the child's biological father.
<b>MA</b>	<a href="#">Mass. Ann. Laws Ch. 119 § 21</a>	"Parent", means mother or father of a child. "Parent", a mother or father, unless another relative has been designated as a parent for the purposes of receiving benefits from the department of transitional assistance. "Relative", the father or mother of a child; a stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother, stepsister, or any blood relative of a child, including those of the half blood, except cousins who are more distantly related than first cousins; any adoptive relative of equal propinquity to the foregoing; or a spouse of any such persons.

	<a href="#">Mass. Ann. Laws Ch. 209C § 6</a>	A man is presumed to be the father of the child if: he and the child's mother are or have been married to each other and the child is born during the marriage; before or after the child's birth, he and the child's mother have attempted to marry each other; while the child is under the age of majority, he received the child into his home and openly holds out the child as his natural child; or he has acknowledged paternity in a parental responsibility claim and the mother has failed to object.
MI	<a href="#">Mich. Comp. Laws § 722.111</a>	"Guardian" means the guardian of the person. "Legal custodian" means an individual who is at least 18 years of age in whose care a minor child remains or is placed after a court makes a finding under section 13a(5) of chapter XIA of the probate code of 1939. "Related" means a parent, grandparent, brother, sister, stepparent, stepsister, stepbrother, uncle, aunt, cousin, great aunt, great uncle, or step-grandparent related by marriage, blood, or adoption.
	<a href="#">Mich. Comp. Laws §§ 722.1002; 722.1003</a>	"Father" means the man who signs an acknowledgment of parentage of a child. If a child is born out of wedlock, a man is considered to be the natural father of that child if the man, along with the mother, acknowledges that child as his child by completing an acknowledgment of parentage form.
MN	<a href="#">Minn. Ann. Stat. §§ 257.52; 257.55</a>	"Parent and child relationship" means the legal relationship existing between a child and the child's biological or adoptive parents to which the law confers or imposes rights, privileges, duties, and obligations. It includes the mother and child relationship and the father and child relationship. A man is presumed to be the biological father of a child if: he and the child's mother are or have been married to each other and the child is born during the marriage; before or after the child's birth he and the child's mother have attempted to marry each other; while the child is under the age of majority, he received the child into his home and openly holds out the child as his natural child; or he and the child's mother acknowledge his paternity of the child in a writing signed by both of them and filed with the State Registrar of Vital Statistics.
	<a href="#">2009 Minn. Laws, SB 1503, Chap. 163</a>	Defines Parent as a person who has a legal parent and child relationship with a child which confers or imposes on the person's legal rights, privileges, duties, and obligations. It includes the mother and child relationship and the father and child relationship.  For matters governed by the Indian Child Welfare Act, parent includes any Indian person who has adopted a child by tribal law or custom. For matters governed by the Indian Child Welfare Act, parent does not include the unwed father where paternity has not been acknowledged or established; parent does not mean a putative father of a child unless the putative father is entitled to notice.
	<a href="#">Minn. Stat. 2008, section 260.93</a>	"Noncustodial parent" means a person who, at the time of the commencement of court proceedings in the sending state, does not have sole legal custody of the child or has joint legal custody of a child, and who is not the subject of allegations or findings of child abuse or neglect. "Relative" means someone who is related to the child as a parent, stepparent, sibling by half or whole blood or by adoption, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or first cousin or a non-relative with such significant ties to the child that they may be regarded as relatives as determined by the court in the sending state.

<b>MS</b>	<a href="#">Miss. Ann. Code § 43-21-105</a>	"Parent" means the father or mother to whom the child has been born, or the father or mother by whom the child has been legally adopted. "Guardian" means a court-appointed guardian of a child. "Custodian" means any person having the present care or custody of a child whether such person be a parent or otherwise.
<b>MO</b>	<a href="#">Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 210.817; 210.822</a>	"Parent and child relationship" means the legal relationship existing between a child and his natural or adoptive parents incident to which the law confers or imposes rights, privileges, duties, and obligations. It includes the mother and child relationship and the father and child relationship. A man is presumed to be the biological father of a child if he and the child's mother are or have been married to each other and the child is born during the marriage, before or after the child's birth he and the child's mother have married or attempted to marry each other, or an expert concludes that the blood tests show that the alleged parent is not excluded and that the probability of paternity is 98 percent or higher.
<b>MT</b>	<a href="#">Mont. Ann. Code §§ 40-6-102</a>	"Parent and child relationship" means the legal relationship existing between a child and the child's natural or adoptive parents incident to which the law confers or imposes rights, privileges, duties, and obligations. It includes the mother and child relationship and the father and child relationship.
	<a href="#">Mont. Ann. Code §§ 42-1-103; 42-2-201</a>	"Birth parent" means the woman who gave birth to the child or the father of genetic origin of the child. "Parent" means the birth or adoptive mother or the birth, adoptive, or legal father whose parental rights have not been terminated. "Putative father" means an individual who may be a child's birth father but who is not married to the child's mother on or before the date that the child is born or has not established paternity of the child prior to the filing of a petition for termination of parental rights to the child for purposes of adoption. "Putative Father" includes an individual who is less than age 18 or is not married to the child's mother even though the individual is a presumed father.
<b>NE</b>	<a href="#">Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 43-245; 43-123</a>	"Parent" means one or both parents or a stepparent when such stepparent is married to the custodial parent as of the filing of the petition. Relative shall mean the biological parents or biological siblings of an adopted person.
<b>NV</b>	<a href="#">Nev. Rev. Stat. § 128.016</a>	"Putative father" means a person who is or is alleged or reputed to be the father of an illegitimate child.
	<a href="#">Nev. Rev. Stat. § 126.015</a>	"Parent and child relationship" includes all rights, privileges and obligations existing between parent and child. "Parent" includes an adoptive parent.
<b>NH</b>	<a href="#">N. H. Rev. Stat. § 170-B:2</a>	"Birth father" means a person or persons other than a legal father who has been named as the father of the child, or who is the subject of a pending paternity action, or who has filed an un-revoked notice of intent to claim paternity of the child. "Birth mother" means a woman who gestates an embryo conceived by natural or artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, or preembryo transfer. "Guardian" means a person so appointed by the probate court.



		<p>"Legal father" is: the person designated as the father on that child's birth certificate; the person designated as the father pursuant to a court order resulting from a paternity action; the person designated as the father upon legitimation; or the person that was determined by the court to be married to the birth mother at the time of either conception or birth or any time between conception and birth.</p> <p>"Parent" means mother, birth father, legal father, or adoptive parent, but such term shall not include a parent as to whom the parent-child relationship has been terminated by judicial decree or voluntarily surrender.</p>
<b>NJ</b>	N.J. Ann. Stat. §§ 9:3-38; 9:17-39; 9:17-43	<p>"Parent and child relationship" means the legal relationship existing between a child and the child's natural or adoptive parents, incident to which the law confers or imposes rights, privileges, duties, and obligations. It includes the mother and child relationship and the father and child relationship.</p> <p>"Parent" means a birth parent or parents, including the birth father of a child born out of wedlock who has acknowledged the child or to whom the court has ordered notice to be given. A man is presumed to be the biological father of a child if: he and the child's mother are or have been married to each other and the child is born during the marriage; before or after the child's birth he and the child's mother have married or attempted to marry each other; or while the child is a minor, he receives the child into his home or provides support for the child and openly holds out the child as his natural child.</p>
<b>NM</b>	N.M. Ann. Stat. § 32A-5-3	<p>"Acknowledged father" is: a father who acknowledges paternity of the adoptee pursuant to the putative father registry; is named as the child's father on the child's birth certificate; is obligated to support the child under a written voluntary promise or pursuant to a court order; or has openly held out the child as his own child by establishing a custodial, personal, or financial relationship with the child.</p> <p>"Alleged father" means an individual whom the birth mother has identified as the biological father, but the individual has not acknowledged paternity or registered with the putative father registry.</p> <p>"Presumed father" means: the husband of the biological mother at the time the child was born; an individual who was married to the mother and either the child was born during the term of the marriage or 300 days after the marriage ends; or before the child's birth the man attempted to marry the child's mother.</p>
	2009 N.M. Laws, SB 463, Chap. 215	<p>"Acknowledged father" means a man who has established a father-child relationship.</p> <p>"Adjudicated father" means a man who has been adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction to be the father of a child.</p> <p>"Alleged father" means a man who alleges himself to be, or is alleged to be, the genetic father or a possible genetic father of a child, but whose paternity has not been determined.</p> <p>"Parent" means a person who has established a parent-child relationship.</p> <p>"Presumed father" means a man who is recognized as the father of a child until that status is rebutted or confirmed in a judicial proceeding.</p>
<b>NY</b>	<a href="#">N.Y. Dom. Rel. Law § 75-a</a>	<p>"Person acting as a parent" means a person, other than a parent, who: has physical custody of the child or has had physical custody for a period of six consecutive months, including any temporary absence, within one year immediately before the commencement of a child custody proceeding; and has been awarded legal custody by a court</p>

		or claims a right to legal custody under the law of this state.
<b>NC</b>	<a href="#">N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7B-101</a>	"Caretaker" – Any person other than a parent, guardian, or custodian who has responsibility for the health and welfare of a juvenile in a residential setting. A person responsible for a juvenile's health and welfare means a stepparent, foster parent, an adult member of the juvenile's household, an adult relative entrusted with the juvenile's care, any person such as a house parent or cottage parent who has primary responsibility for supervising a juvenile's health and welfare in a residential child care facility or residential educational facility, or any employee or volunteer of a division, institution, or school operated by the Department of Health and Human Services. "Caretaker" also means any person who has the responsibility for the care of a juvenile in a child care facility as includes any person who has the approval of the care provider to assume responsibility for the juveniles under the care of the care provider.
	<a href="#">N.C. Gen. Stat. § 501A-102</a>	"Person acting as a parent" means a person, other than a parent, who: Has physical custody of the child or has had physical custody for a period of six consecutive months, including any temporary absence, within one year immediately before the commencement of a child-custody proceeding; and has been awarded legal custody by a court or claims a right to legal custody under the law of this State.
<b>ND</b>	N.D. Cent. Code §§ 14-20-02; 14-20-10	"Acknowledged father" means a man who has established a father-child relationship. "Adjudicated father" means a man who has been adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction to be the father of a child. "Alleged father" means a man who alleges himself to be, or is alleged to be, the genetic father or a possible genetic father of a child, but whose paternity has not been determined. The term does not include: a presumed father, a male donor, or a man whose parental rights have been terminated or declared not to exist. "Presumed father" means a man who is recognized as the father of a child until that status is rebutted or confirmed in a judicial proceeding. A man is presumed to be the father of a child if: he and the mother of the child are married to each other and the child is born during the marriage or within 300 days after the marriage was terminated; for the first 2 years of the child's life, he resided in the same household with the child and openly held out the child as his own; or after the birth of the child, he and the mother of the child married each other and he voluntarily asserted his paternity of the child.
<b>OH</b>	Ohio Rev. Code §§ 3111.01; 3111.03	"Parent and child relationship" means the legal relationship that exists between a child and the child's parents and upon which the law confers or imposes rights, privileges, duties, and obligations. The "parent and child relationship" includes the mother and child relationship and the father and child relationship. The parent and child relationship extends equally to all children and all parents, regardless of the marital status of the parents. A man is presumed to be the natural father of a child if: he and the mother of the child are married to each other and the child is born during the marriage or within 300 days after the marriage was terminated; the man and the child's mother attempted, before the child's birth, to marry each other; or an acknowledgment of paternity has been filed.

OK	Okla. Ann. Stat. tit. 10, §§ 7001-1.3; 7700-102	"Putative father" means the father of a child born out of wedlock or whose mother was married to another person at the time of the birth of the child or within ten months prior to the birth of the child. "Putative father" includes a man who acknowledges or claims paternity, a man named as the father by the mother of the child, or any man alleged to have engaged in sexual intercourse with the mother during a possible time of conception.
	Uniform Parentage Act	"Acknowledged father" means a man who has established a father-child relationship by signing an acknowledgment of paternity. "Adjudicated father" means a man who has been adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction to be the father of a child. "Alleged father" means a man who alleges himself to be, or is alleged to be, the genetic father, but whose paternity has not been determined. "Presumed father" means a man who is recognized as the father of a child until that status is rebutted or confirmed in a judicial proceeding.
OR	Ore. Rev. Stat. § 109.070	A man is presumed to be the father of a child if he and the woman were married to each other at the time of the child's birth, without a judgment of separation, regardless of whether the marriage is void or he and the woman were married to each other, and the child is born within 300 days after the marriage is terminated.
PA	Penn. Cons. Stat. Title 23 § 5102	Paternity shall be determined by any of the following: if the parents of a child born out of wedlock have married each other; if it is determined by clear and convincing evidence that the father openly holds out the child to be his and either receives the child into his home or provides support for the child; or if there is clear and convincing evidence that the man was the father of the child, including a prior court determination of paternity.
RI	<a href="#">R.I. Gen. Laws § 15-8-3</a>	A man is presumed to be the father of a child if: he and the woman are or were married to each other at the time of the child's birth or within 300 days after the marriage is terminated; before or after the child's birth he and the mother are or have attempted to marry; he acknowledges his paternity of the child in a writing filed with the clerk of the family court; he has submitted to blood testing and the results establish a conclusive presumption; or a sworn acknowledgment of paternity of a child born out of wedlock is signed by both parents.
SC	<a href="#">S.C. Code of Laws § 63-17-720</a>	"Custodian" means a parent, relative, legal guardian, or other person or agency having physical custody of a child.
	<a href="#">S.C. Code of Laws § 63-1-40</a>	"Guardian" means a person who legally has the care and management of a child. "Parent" means biological parent, adoptive parents, step-parent, or person with legal custody.
SD	<a href="#">S.D. Ann. Laws § 25-5A-1</a>	The term "parents" means the mother and father, if living, of a child. "Putative father" means any person who claims to be, or is named as, the biological father or a possible biological father of a child, and whose paternity of the child has not been judicially determined.

	<a href="#">Tenn. Ann. Code § 36-1-102</a>	<p>“Guardian(s)” or “co-guardian(s)” means a person or persons or an entity, other than the parent of a child, appointed by a court or defined by law specifically as “guardian” or “co-guardian” or “conservator” to provide supervision, protection for and care for the person or property, or both, of a child or adult. “Guardian” or “co-guardian” also means a person or entity appointed as guardian(s) as the result of a surrender, parental consent, or termination of parental rights.</p> <p>“Biological parents” means the woman and man who physically or genetically conceived the child who is the subject of the adoption or termination proceedings.</p> <p>“Biological Relative” means for adopted persons: the biological parents or child of an adopted person, the brothers or sisters of the whole or half blood, the blood grandparents of any degree, the blood aunts or uncles, or the blood cousins of the first degree, of such persons; and for persons about whom any background information is sought as part of the surrender or parental consent process: the biological parents of the child, the brothers or sisters of the whole or half blood, the blood grandparents of any degree, or the blood aunts or uncles.</p>
<b>TN</b>	<a href="#">Tenn. Ann. Code §§ 36-2-302; 36-2-304</a>	<p>"Father" means the biological father of a child born out of wedlock. "Mother" means the biological mother of a child born out of wedlock.</p> <p>"Parent" means the biological mother or biological father of a child, regardless of the marital status of the mother and father.</p> <p>"Father," "mother," and "parent" do not include a biological parent whose parental rights have been terminated for a child whose parentage is at issue.</p> <p>A man is presumed to be the father of a child if: the man and the child's mother are married or have been married to each other, and the child is born during the marriage or within 300 days after the marriage is terminated; before the child's birth, the man and the mother have attempted to marry each other; after the birth of the child, the man and the mother have married or have attempted to marry and the father has acknowledged his paternity of the child in a writing filed under the putative father registry; while the child is a minor, the man receives the child into his home and openly holds the child out as his natural child; or genetic tests have been administered and the test results show a statistical probability of parentage of 95 percent or greater.</p>
<b>TX</b>	<a href="#">Texas Family Code § 51.02</a>	<p>"Custodian" means the adult with whom the child resides.</p> <p>"Guardian" means the person who, under court order, is the guardian of the person of the child or the public or private agency with whom the child has been placed by a court.</p> <p>"Parent" means the mother or the father of a child, but does not include a parent whose parental rights have been terminated.</p>

	<a href="#">Texas Family Code §§ 160.102; 160.204</a>	<p>"Adjudicated father" means a man who has been adjudicated by a court to be the father of a child. "Presumed father" means a man who is recognized as the father of a child until that status is rebutted or confirmed in a judicial proceeding.</p> <p>A man is presumed to be the father of a child if: he is married to the mother of the child and the child is born during the marriage; he is married to the child's mother and the child is born before the 301st day after the date the marriage is terminated; he attempted to marry the child's mother before the birth of the child and the child is born during the invalid marriage or before the 301st day after the date the marriage is terminated; he attempted to marry the child's mother after the birth of the child and he voluntarily asserted his paternity of the child; or during the first 2 years of the child's life, he continuously resided in the household in which the child resided and he represented to others that the child was his own.</p>
UT	<a href="#">Utah Ann. Code § 62A-4a-101</a>	"Natural parent" means a minor's biological or adoptive parent, and includes a minor's non-custodial parent."
	<a href="#">Utah Ann. Code § 78B-15-102</a>	<p>"Adjudicated father" means a man who has been adjudicated by a tribunal to be the father of a child. "Alleged father" means a man who alleges himself to be, or is alleged to be, the genetic father of a child, but whose paternity has not been determined. "Declarant father" means a male who, along with the biological mother, claims to be the genetic father of a child, and signs a voluntary declaration of paternity to establish the man's paternity. "Determination of parentage" means the establishment of the parent-child relationship by the signing of a valid declaration of paternity, Voluntary Declaration of Paternity, or adjudication by a tribunal.</p>
VT	<a href="#">Vermont Ann. Stat. tit. 15A, § 1-101</a>	<p>"Parent" means a person who is legally recognized as a mother or father or whose consent to the adoption of a minor is required. The term does not include a person whose parental relationship to a child has been terminated judicially or by operation of law.</p> <p>"Guardian" means a person, other than a parent, appointed by a court to act as a parent for another individual and specifically authorized by the court to place the individual for adoption.</p> <p>"Relative" means a grandparent, great grandparent, sibling, first cousin, aunt, uncle, great-aunt, great-uncle, niece, or nephew of a person, whether related to the person by the whole or the half blood, affinity, or adoption. The term does not include a person's stepparent.</p> <p>"Stepparent" means a person who is the spouse or surviving spouse of a parent of a child but who is not a parent of the child.</p>
VA	<a href="#">Virginia Ann. Code § 63.2-1</a>	"Birth parent" means the child's biological parent and, for purposes of adoptive placement, means parent(s) by previous adoption.
	<a href="#">Virginia Ann. Code § 20-49-1</a>	The parent and child relationship between a child and a man may be established by: Scientifically reliable genetic tests, including blood tests, which affirm at least a ninety-eight percent probability of paternity; or a voluntary written statement of the father and mother made under oath acknowledging paternity and confirming that prior to signing the acknowledgment, the parties were provided with a written and oral description of the rights and responsibilities of acknowledging paternity and the consequences arising from a signed acknowledgment, including the right to rescind.

WA	<a href="#">Wash. Rev. Code §§ 26.26.011; 26.26.116</a>	<p>"Acknowledged father" means a man who has established a father-child relationship.</p> <p>"Adjudicated father" means a man who has been adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction to be the father of a child.</p> <p>"Alleged father" means a man who alleges himself to be, or is alleged to be, the genetic father or a possible genetic father of a child, but whose paternity has not been determined. The term does not include: a presumed father, a male donor, or a male whose parental rights have been terminated or declared not to exist.</p> <p>"Presumed father" means a man who is recognized to be the father of a child until that status is rebutted or confirmed in a judicial proceeding. A man is presumed to be the father of a child if: he and the mother of the child are married to each other, and the child is born during the marriage or 300 days after the married has ended; before the birth of the child, he and the mother of the child have attempted to marry each other and the child is born during the invalid marriage or within 300 days after its termination; or after the birth of the child, he and the mother of the child have married each other and he voluntarily asserted his paternity of the child.</p>
WV	<a href="#">W. Va. Ann. Code §§ 49-1-4</a>	<p>"Custodian" means a person who has or shares actual physical possession or care and custody of a child, regardless of whether such person has been granted custody of the child by any contract, agreement or legal proceedings.</p> <p>"Guardian" means a person who has care and custody of a child as a result of any contract, agreement or legal proceeding.</p> <p>"Acknowledged father" means a man who has established a father-child relationship.</p> <p>"Adjudicated father" means a man who has been adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction to be the father of a child.</p> <p>"Alleged father" means a man who alleges himself to be, or is alleged to be, the genetic father or a possible genetic father of a child, but whose paternity has not been determined. The term does not include: a presumed father, a male donor, or a male whose parental rights have been terminated or declared not to exist.</p> <p>"Presumed father" means a man who is recognized to be the father of a child until that status is rebutted or confirmed in a judicial proceeding. A man is presumed to be the father of a child if: he and the mother of the child are married to each other, and the child is born during the marriage or 300 days after the married has ended; before the birth of the child, he and the mother of the child have attempted to marry each other and the child is born during the invalid marriage or within 300 days after its termination; or after the birth of the child, he and the mother of the child have married each other and he voluntarily asserted his paternity of the child.</p>

	<a href="#">W.V. Ann. Code §§ 48-22-105; 109; 110; 113; 114</a>	<p>"Birth father" means the biological father of the child.</p> <p>"Determined father" means, before adoption, a person who has established paternity whether by adjudication or acknowledgment; who has been judicially determined to be the biological father of the child entitled to parental rights; who has asserted his paternity of the child.</p> <p>"Outsider father" means the biological father of a child born to or conceived by the mother while she is married to another man who is not the biological father of the child.</p> <p>"Putative father" means, before adoption, any man named by the mother as a possible biological father of the child who is not a legal or determined father.</p> <p>"Legal father" means, before adoption, the male person having the legal relationship of parent to a child who is married to the child's mother at the time of conception or at the time of birth of the child or who is the biological father of the child and who marries the mother before an adoption of the child.</p>
<b>WI</b>	<a href="#">Wis. Ann. Stat. §§ 48.02</a>	<p>"Guardian" means the person named by the court having the duty and authority of guardianship.</p> <p>"Legal custodian" means a person, other than a parent or guardian, or an agency to whom legal custody of the child has been transferred by a court, but does not include a person who has only physical custody of the child.</p> <p>"Parent" means either a biological parent, a husband who has consented to the artificial insemination of his wife, or a parent by adoption. If the child is a non-marital child who is not adopted or whose parents do not subsequently marry, "parent" includes a person acknowledged or adjudicated to be the biological father. "Parent" does not include any person whose parental rights have been terminated. A man is presumed to be the natural father of a child if he and the mother have acknowledged paternity and no other man is presumed to be the father.</p> <p>"Relative" means a parent, stepparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, half sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, first cousin, 2nd cousin, nephew, niece, uncle, aunt, stepuncle, stepaunt, or any person of a preceding generation as denoted by the prefix of grand, great, or great-great, whether by blood, marriage, or legal adoption, or the spouse of any person named in this subsection, even if the marriage is terminated by death or divorce.</p> <p>"Birth father" means the biological father of the child.</p>
<b>WY</b>	<a href="#">Wyo. Ann. Stat. § 1-22-101; 891.405</a>	<p>"Parent" means the child's father or mother whose parental rights have not been judicially terminated. "Putative father" means the alleged or reputed father of a child born out of wedlock, whether or not the paternity rights and obligations of the father have been judicially determined.</p> <p>"Parent" means either a biological parent, a husband who has consented to the artificial insemination of his wife, or a parent by adoption. If the child is a non-marital child who is not adopted or whose parents do not subsequently marry, "parent" includes a person acknowledged or adjudicated to be the biological father. "Parent" does not include any person whose parental rights have been terminated. A man is presumed to be the natural father of a child if he and the mother have acknowledged paternity and no other man is presumed to be the father.</p>
	<a href="#">Wyo. Ann. Stat. § 3-2-301</a>	<p>"Caregiver" means a person, other than a natural parent or legal guardian, who is at least eighteen (18) years of age and is the primary physical custodian and a relative of a minor child.</p> <p>"Relative" or "related" means the relationship of parent, stepparent, grandparent, great-grandparent, sibling, stepsibling, half sibling, uncle or aunt.</p>