

Final Paternity Adjudication Decision Guide



Overview

Use this table to help you determine if you have a final paternity adjudication. Answer the questions in order and follow the instructions in the Answer column. Every case is different and if you are unsure whether an order is the final adjudication of paternity, contact the judicial officer or seek legal advice.

Question	Answer
1. Has paternity been established (the Parent/Child relationship has been adjudicated)?	If YES , continue. If NO , this is not a final paternity adjudication.
2. Has custody been established or is under the jurisdiction/court order of another state or tribe (custody has not been reserved or continued)? Note: An order for temporary custody does not establish custody.	If YES , continue. If NO , this is not a final paternity adjudication.
3. Has parenting time been established, reserved, or is under the jurisdiction/court order of another state or tribe (parenting time has not been continued)?	If YES , continue. If NO , this is not a final paternity adjudication.
4. Has child support been established or reserved (child support has not been temporarily set, continued, or referred to district court or expedited process)?	If YES , continue. If NO , this is not a final paternity adjudication.
5. Has child's name been established (i.e., the order does not explicitly reserve or continue the issue of the child's name)?	If YES , continue. If NO , this is not a final paternity adjudication.
If yes to all questions, this is a final paternity adjudication.	

Key Terms

- **Adjudicated** – The court made a formal judgment or decision about the issue or disputed matter.
- **Established** – The matter was documented by the court (also referred to as recognized or acknowledged).
- **Reserved** – The issue is not decided but it may be in the future.

