



## RESOURCE GUIDE FOR FATHERS

At Barkus Law, we are committed to helping you find the resources you need for your family. Below is a list of resources that may be helpful to you. Please note that the following is for general information and not legal advice.

### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PATERNITY

- **SIGNING THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE DOES NOT MAKE YOU THE LEGAL FATHER-** We put this one in large capital letters because many people do not know it. In fact, it's pretty misleading since you sign a statement when you sign the birth certificate and it appears to say that you are the legal father. For information about the ways to establish paternity, see our blog post: <http://barkuslaw.com/the-importance-of-establishing-paternity/>
- **THERE IS A PUTATIVE FATHER REGISTRY-** Many people do not know this either. But it is important, since your rights as a father may be impacted if you are not married to the child's mother and you do not register. The putative father registry can be found here:  
  
[http://www.floridahealth.gov/%5C%5C/certificates/certificates/birth/Putative\\_Father/index.html](http://www.floridahealth.gov/%5C%5C/certificates/certificates/birth/Putative_Father/index.html)
- **CHILD SUPPORT PROCEEDINGS DON'T ADDRESS TIMESHARING-** A child support proceeding may be brought on behalf of the mother by the Department of Revenue. This is an administrative proceeding, which means that child support will be decided but not timesharing. Since child support is based, in part, on the amount of timesharing you have with your child, a child support award will likely be higher if handled in this proceeding instead of in front of a judge.



## **SUPPORT GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS**

Divorce and separation are difficult enough, and you should not go through this process alone. Sometimes, even the most well meaning friends and family cannot understand what you are going through, especially if you are fighting to see your child or unable to see your child. Support groups are a great way to connect with others in similar situations to provide much needed emotional and other support.

- **Divorce Care**

Divorce recovery support group where you can find help and healing for the hurt of separation and divorce.

[www.divorcecare.org](http://www.divorcecare.org)

- **The Family Healing Center of Broward County**

Services include: psychotherapy (Individual, couples and family); divorce counseling; parenting and co-parenting counseling; and educational workshops.

[www.familyhealingbroward.com](http://www.familyhealingbroward.com)

- **Breakups and Divorce Support Group**

Online forum for those facing divorce.

<https://www.dailystrength.org/group/breakups-divorce>

- **The Florida Father's Rights Movement**

Support for father's in divorce and custody situations. Online forums and members available to speak with you.

<http://www.fl.tfrm.us/>

**Did you know: Over 40% of children in the United States are born to unmarried parents? And Florida is #3 in the nation for highest # of births to unmarried parents.**



## PARENT COORDINATORS

Co-parenting can be challenging even when you are together. Many people don't see eye to eye on how to raise their child, or they have trouble communicating with each other. Parent coordinators can be helpful in teaching you how to work together and communicate for your child's sake.

- Brad Zucker LHMC  
1881 NE 26th St, Suite 70  
Wilton Manors, Florida 33305  
[\(954\) 357-2678](tel:9543572678)
- Tammy Berman MS  
Florida Qualified Parenting Coordinator  
817 S. University Drive, Suite # 121  
Plantation, FL 33324  
(954) 839-0106

## CO-PARENTING RESOURCES

All parents who are divorced or in paternity cases, must take a 4 hour parenting course. These courses are offered in person or online. The following is a list of online parenting courses. Please check and make sure the Judge in your case approves your taking an online parenting course.

<http://www.floridacoparenting.com/>  
<http://positiveparentingclassesforflorida.com/>  
<http://www.floridaparenting.com/>





## RESOURCES FOR FIRST TIME PARENTS





**Did you know: Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of injury to small children? And, 3 out of 4 car seats are installed improperly.**

**Infant and child CPR-** Accredited, licensed and insured in teaching infant and child CPR and Heimlich maneuver for choking.

<http://www.cprflorida.net/newparentinfantchildcpr.html>

**Car seats purchase and installation** - Teaches you the correct way to install car seats. You can also purchase car seats for discounted prices.

<https://www.baptistjax.com/patient-info/classes-and-events/car-seat-workshop>

USE THE APPROPRIATE SAFETY SEAT	
	<b>REAR-FACING SEATS</b> from birth until age 2, or until your child reaches the upper weight limit of their rear-facing convertible seat, which will be around 35 pounds.
	<b>FORWARD-FACING SEATS</b> once your child reaches the upper weight or height limit of their rear-facing convertible seat. It is safest to keep your child in a forward-facing seat with a harness until they reach the maximum weight limit (40 - 65 pounds) or height restriction of their seat.
	<b>BELT-POSITIONING BOOSTER SEATS</b> once a child outgrows the upper weight or height limit of their forward-facing harness. Children should use belt-positioning booster seats until they are at least 4'9" and are between 8 and 12 years of age.
	<b>LAP &amp; SHOULDER BELTS</b> once the belt fits properly. All children under age 13 should ride in the back seat!
<b>INSTALL THE SAFETY SEAT CORRECTLY</b> Car seats are most effective when used properly. Make sure you read the installation instructions correctly. There are certified child safety seat technicians who can help. Contact 1-866-SEAT-CHECK for additional information.	

To locate a certified car seat technician:

<http://safeseats4kids.aaa.com/car-seat-guide/>



## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Paternity testing providers-** Once paternity is established, it may be impossible to reverse. If there are questions about whether you are the child's father, it is recommended that you find out before establishing paternity.

<http://dna-testingsouthflorida.com/>  
<https://dnacenter.com/locations/florida/>

### **Books for first time parents**

[http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/7796.Must Reads for First Time Parents](http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/7796.Must_Reads_for_First_Time_Parents)

### **Websites for first time parents**

<http://redtri.com/bump-baby/best-websites-for-new-and-expecting-parents/>

### **10 mistakes new parents make by WebMD**

<http://www.webmd.com/parenting/baby/features/10-mistakes-new-parents-make#1>

**Checklist- essentials for a new baby-** The bare-bones, absolute essentials, nothing-but-the-basics guide to what to buy for baby.

<http://www.thebump.com/a/checklist-baby-essentials>