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Reforming the Child Support Laws to Establish True Paternity

**Introduction**

1. Imagine this: A young father appearing in court for a child support hearing regarding the child that he fathered with his high school sweetheart.
	1. In good faith, he signs the order because in the 4-years that was a relationship the mother he had no reason to believe that she cheated.
	2. As the child grows older, the man begins to question if he is the father, so he gets a paternity test which show that he is not the father of the child.
	3. He returns to court with the proof but is still required to continue to be financially responsible for the child.
2. Because of the current child support laws, many people end up suffering in similar cases.
3. Today I would like to talk about presumed fathers in the eyes of the law, the impact that it has on the people involved, as well as way to prevent or reduce the number of paternity fraud cases.

**Body**

1. The current legal system regarding child support is outrageous
	1. It requires the man to pay for child support even if it is evident that the child is not theirs.
	2. However, until the paternity test is done, the presumed father is liable to pay a specified amount of money for child support according to chapter 161 of the family code in Texas (Fox News, 2017).
		1. A Texas man is battling a case which requires him to support a child who is not biologically his (Fox News, 2017)
	3. In some cases, even after the DNA test reveals otherwise, the court insists that the man must continue paying for the child support or serve a prison sentence (Child Support, 2013).
	4. Divorce cases have also adopted the concept of a presumed father.
		1. A man in Michigan is ordered to pay over $8000 in back pay for a child that his estranged wife conceived during their separation event though the father has acknowledged that he is the responsible party.
	5. States receive federal incentives for collecting child support as well as the amount of child support that they charge the non-custodial parent (Sorensen & Morales 2017).
2. Many involved in unfair child support cases suffer
	1. The presumed father
		1. Forced to financial support a child that he did father.
		2. Sometimes incur mental anguish after building a relationship with a child that is not their blood.
	2. The child
		1. Emotional and mental anguish if rejected by the only father they know.
	3. The biological father
		1. May never have rights to a child that is theirs due to court rulings.
		2. Rejection of the father by the child.
3. How to prevent paternity fraud or presumed father rulings
	1. Revise the child support laws so that children born to a married during the time of separation are not automatically labeled as the child of the husband.
		1. Require paternity testing before dissolving a marriage
		2. Allow the biological father rights if he has claimed responsibility
	2. Require paternity testing in all child support cases of unmarried couples.
		1. Early paternity testing ensures that the father participates in a child’s life from a young age (Ross, Saal, David & Anderson, 2013). Children require love from both parents.
	3. For cases that have already been established, allow father child support to be dismissed if paternity is proven after the fact.

**Conclusion**

1. Ensuring that a child is biologically related to the father before issuing a child support order will have a positive impact in most cases.
	1. A bond between father and child will continue to be strong.
	2. Less children will face rejection by their fathers.

# Bibliography

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