

Doing the Paperwork



DID YOU KNOW

Whether you're on unpaid or paid leave, your employer must keep your job or a similar one open for you. And while you're away, you can still get your medical benefits.

❑ Arrange leave from work

Unpaid time off: All employees can get unpaid time off to spend with a new child. If you give birth, you may get maternity leave as well as parental leave. Partners and adopting parents can get parental leave.

Paid time off: If you had a job before giving birth, you may get paid maternity leave and paid parental leave through Employment Insurance. Most mothers take the parental leave right after their maternity leave is over. Fathers and adoptive parents may also get paid parental leave. Find out more at canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-maternity-parental. And talk to your employer about any additional benefits your workplace may offer.

❑ Choose a name

You'll have to give your baby a first name ("given name") and a last name ("surname"). You can also choose to give her one or more middle names. The baby's surname can be the mother's, the father's, a combination of both (with or without a dash), or different from both.

❑ Consider choosing a guardian

Think about who you would like to care for your child if you die. If that person agrees, you can name them as your child's guardian in your will or by filling out an Appointment of Standby or Testamentary Guardian form.

❑ Register the birth

Register your baby with the B.C. Vital Statistics Agency within 30 days of the birth. The birth can be registered online at ebr.vs.gov.bc.ca or through your hospital or midwife. When you register the birth, you can also enrol your baby in the Medical Services Plan and apply for her birth certificate, Social Insurance Number and Canada Child Benefits.

❑ Get a birth certificate

Apply for official identification for your baby at ebr.vs.gov.bc.ca or on the back of the form you use to register the birth. There is a fee for a birth certificate.



MONEY SENSE

Apply for the Canada Child Benefit

Monthly government payments are available to help you raise your baby. Just check the consent box on the back of the form you use to register the birth. Find out more at canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits or 1-800-387-1193.

❑ Get medical coverage

Fill out the Medical Services Plan (MSP) Baby Registration form within 60 days of the birth. Apply when you're registering the birth, or get the form at health.gov.bc.ca/exforms/msp/115fil.pdf or from your hospital or midwife. Use your own medical number for the baby for the first 60 days.



MONEY SENSE

Medical coverage

If you have a modest income, you may qualify for MSP Supplementary Benefits. Contact Health Insurance BC at 1-800-663-7100 for more information. If you qualify for MSP Supplementary Benefits, you can also get help to pay for your child's glasses, hearing devices and basic dental care. Contact the Healthy Kids program at 1-866-866-0800 to learn more.

If you are First Nations, the First Nations Health Authority Health Benefits program may pay for medical and dental costs not covered by other insurance. Email healthbenefits@fnha.ca or call 1-855-550-5454 toll-free to learn more.

If you are a refugee, call Health Insurance BC at 1-800-663-7100 to find out if you qualify for MSP coverage. If not, you may be able to get help through the Interim Federal Health Program. Call 1-888-242-2100 or visit cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/outside/summary-ifhp.asp.



MONEY SENSE

Get help with prescription drug costs

If you're already registered for Fair PharmaCare, your baby will automatically be registered. If not, register her at www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare-for-bc-residents or call 1-800-663-7100.



MONEY SENSE

Look into other financial support

If you receive income assistance, you may be able to get help to pay for housing, supplements, formula and more. Search "General & Health Supplements" at www2.gov.bc.ca or call 1-866-866-0800.

