

June 22, 2017

Jamie Pedersen
Uniform Law Commission
Drafting Committee Co-Chair for the Uniform Parentage Act Revision
Vice President and General Counsel
McKinstry Co., LLC
5005 Third Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98134

Dear Jamie,

Thank you and your committee for the work you have done to revise the Uniform Parentage Act. NAPHSIS was pleased to provide technical assistance to the committee through our representative and observer, Molly Crawford, State Registrar Minnesota Department of Health, Office of Vital Records.

Vital records plays an important role in collecting data about births that is essential to public health, documenting identities, and documenting legal parentage. We are often challenged by the speed of social change and interpreting the laws that govern our work. Families are more complex than ever before and the demand for identity documents is higher than ever.

The Uniform Parentage Act is important to our work. It provides a framework for all jurisdictions and helps guide vital records offices in their work with others to assure that birth records are timely, accurate, and complete. NAPHSIS appreciates the thoughtful updates that the committee has put forward. The revisions help to flesh out how we document same-sex parents, parents involved in surrogacy as well as legal parentage on birth certificates. The revisions also help address the further challenges presented by our mobile society for situations that cross jurisdictional boundaries—where the place of one's birth and where the birth record exists differs from where a surrogate contract is executed or where parentage is established or changed.

On behalf of our members and the vital records community which includes all 50 states, the five territories, New York City, and the District of Columbia, NAPHSIS is proud to support the 2017 revisions to the Uniform Parentage Act. We wish you and the Commission success in the final reading next month in San Diego.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth W. Saadi

Elizabeth W. Saadi, PhD
President of the Board of Directors



Shawna Webster, CAE
Executive Director