Top-Ten Ranking Virginia Hospitals Recognized for Stellar Paternity Establishment Rates

Richmond, VA (September 7, 2021) – The Virginia Paternity Establishment Program (VPEP), a program which offers unmarried parents the opportunity to establish paternity for newborn children, recognizes the top-ten ranking Virginia hospitals for paternity establishment rates.

VPEP offers unmarried parents the opportunity to establish paternity of their newborns by voluntarily acknowledging fatherhood during their hospital stay. VPEP also supports paternity establishment should unmarried parents decide later that they would like to add the father to the birth certificate. The Commonwealth has a total of 57 hospitals serving parents statewide that assist with paternity establishment.

"Despite the visitation challenges that COVID-19 has presented, hospitals within the Commonwealth continue to demonstrate outstanding efforts to establish paternity at the time of birth," said Brionna Jones, VPEP project manager. "Establishing paternity not only affirms a father's legal rights and responsibility, but it also ensures the child has greater access to emotional support and other social and economic opportunities."

Under COVID-19 restrictions, hospitals within the Commonwealth have limited the number of visitors for new mothers. At some hospitals, this has made it more difficult to establish paternity.

In 2020, more than 33,000 births in Virginia were to unmarried parents. The Commonwealth's 2020 paternity establishment rate average is 73.64%, similar to 2019's 73.68%. The hospital with the highest paternity establishment rate is Stone Springs Hospital in Dulles, Virginia, with a 2020 paternity establishment rate of 83.16%. The state mandated requirement is 80%.

The chart below highlights the 2020 hospital ranking determined by the total number of unmarried births:

Total Number of Unmarried Births	Hospital Name	2020 Paternity Establishment Rate
Above 600	Inova Fairfax	80.41%
250-600	Stafford Hospital Center	81.25%
Below 250	Stone Springs Hospital	83.16%

The top-ten ranked hospitals for 2020 are shown below:

**2020 Virginia Births by Facility Hospital Voluntary Paternity Establishment Rates
(as reported by Office of Vital Records)**

Ranking	Hospital Name	2019 Paternity Establishment Rate
1	STONE SPRINGS HOSPITAL CENTER	83.16%
2	FAUQUIER HOSPITAL, INC.	83.06%
3	TWIN COUNTY REGIONAL HOSPITAL	82.93%
4	NOVANT HEALTH HAYMARKET MEDICAL CENTER	82.14%
5	STAFFORD HOSPITAL CENTER	81.25%
6	INOVA FAIRFAX HOSPITAL	80.41%
7	INOVA LOUDOUN HOSPITAL, LANSDOWNE	80.15%
8	SENTARA PRINCESS ANNE HOSPITAL	80.08%
9	WINCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER, INC.	79.51%
10	CLINCH VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER	79.25%

Sponsored by the Virginia Department of Social Services' Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE), VPEP is operated by Veritas Health and Human Services. For a complete listing of Virginia's 59 birthing hospitals and their respective ranking, please email vapep@veritas-hhs.com. To find out more information about the Virginia Paternity Establishment Program, please visit vapaternity.com.

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About the Virginia Department of Social Services
The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), one of the Commonwealth's largest government agencies, is comprised of approximately 1,700 state staff who proudly serve alongside more than 10,000 employees of 120 local departments of social services and community action agencies to deliver critical social services to Virginia's most vulnerable citizens. VDSS is committed to ensuring Virginians have access to the high-quality human services and resources needed to enhance their individual and collective well-being, and shape strong futures for themselves, their families and communities. The agency provides a wide range of services and resources in the areas of food and energy assistance, foster care and adoption, child support, and abuse and neglect prevention, among others. For more information, visit dss.virginia.gov.