

Rights and responsibilities of parents

Being a parent gives you certain rights and responsibilities when caring for your child. Rights are what the law says you can get. Responsibilities are what the law says you have to do.

For example, a parent usually has the **right** to:

- get important documents for the child, like a health card and social insurance number
- register the child in school
- make health care decisions for the child
- apply for and may get government benefits like maternity or parental leave, and the Canada Child Benefit

Being a parent also comes with **responsibilities**. For example, parents have to give financial support to their child. The law says parents must support their children even if they:

- do not live with their children
- do not see their children
- are not married to the other parent
- did not live with the other parent
- did not have an ongoing relationship with the other parent
- have other children from a new or previous relationship

Being a parent may also give your child a right to get some of your property if you die without a will.