Attachment 1:

Questions to Ask a Client Who Tells You He's Not the Dad

2014 Child Support Enforcement: Representing Respondents Joyce L. Terres, Assistant Appellate Defender, Office of Parent Representation 123 W. Main Street, Suite 308, Durham, NC 27701 (919) 354-7230

> <u>Joyce.L.Terres@nccourts.org</u> www.ncids.org

- 1. How old is the child?
- 2. What is the child's date of birth?
- 3. Was the child born full-term or was the child born prematurely?
- 4. Where was the child born (City, State, Country)?
- 5. What type of relationship do you have with the child right now?
- 6. How old were you when the child was born?
- 7. Is your name listed on the child's birth certificate as the father?
- 8. Did you adopt the child? If so, when?
- 9. Were you married to the mother when the child was born?
 - a. How long were you married before the child was born?
 - b. Were you separated at the time of the child's birth? How long before the birth did you separate?
 - c. Were you out of the home for any reason before the child's birth (e.g., military deployment, job contract out-of-state, hospitalization, incarceration)? For what period before the child's birth were you out of the home?
 - d. Have you told people the child is yours?
 - e. Is there a divorce decree, child custody order, or visitation order that says you're the father of the child?
 - f. Were you served with the civil complaint for child support?

- g. Did you go to court?
- h. If you didn't go to court, explain why you didn't go.
- 10. Did you marry the mother after the child was born?
 - a. Did you tell people you were the child's father before you got married?
 - b. Did you marry the mother so the child's parents would be married?
 - c. Have you told people you are a family and the child is your child?
 - d. Is there a divorce decree, child custody order, or visitation order that says you're the father of the child?
 - e. Were you served with the civil complaint for child support?
 - f. Did you go to court?
 - g. If you didn't go to court, explain why you didn't go.
- 11. Did you file a petition to legitimate the child?
 - a. When did you file the petition to legitimate?
 - b. Did you admit that you were the father of the child in the petition to legitimate?
 - c. Was the petition granted?
 - d. Were you served with the civil complaint for child support?
 - e. Did you go to court?
 - f. If you didn't go to court, explain why you didn't go.
- 12. Did you ever admit to a child support worker that you were the father of the child?
- 13. Do you remember signing an Affidavit of Parentage?
 - a. Where were you when you signed the Affidavit?

- b. Who was with you when you signed the Affidavit?
- c. Did you sign the Affidavit by your own free will? If not, describe what caused you to sign the Affidavit.
- 14. Was an Order of Paternity entered?
 - a. Were you served with a civil complaint for paternity and child support?
 - b. Did you go to court?
 - c. Did you admit that you were the father in court?
 - d. Did you request a paternity test?
 - e. Did you submit to a paternity test? If so, what were the results?
 - f. If you didn't go to court, explain why you didn't go.
 - g. Did you receive a copy of the Order of Paternity?
- 15. When did you meet the mother?
- 16. When did you first have sexual relations with the mother?
- 17. Did you have ongoing sexual relations with the mother before the child was born?
- 18. Are there any medical reasons why you believe you could not be the father of this child (e.g., vasectomy, impotence)
- 19. Has the mother ever told you that you are not the father of the child?
 - a. When did she tell you?
 - b. How many times has she told you?
 - c. Did she ever mention that in a letter, email or text? If so, do you still have a copy?
- 20. What type of relationship do you have now with the mother?

- 21. Is the mother in agreement with a motion to set aside paternity of the child?
- 22. Why do you believe you are not the father of the child?
- 23. When did you first become aware that you were not the father of the child?
- 24. Has anyone else claimed to be the father of the child?
- 25. Has paternity testing ever shown that anyone else is the father of the child?
- 26. Is there anyone that you believe is the father of the child?
- 27. Have you ever tried to stop the biological father of the child from claiming he was the father
- 28. Are you currently in the military?
- 29. Were you deployed on military orders when any orders were entered or after learning that you were not the father of the child?
- 30. Do you have any court documents or written materials to support any of your answers above?