

**THE PATERNITY ACT (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 205 of 1956**

**722.715 Mother and alleged father competent to testify; cross-examination; exclusion of public; continuance until birth of child.**

Sec. 5.

(1) Both the mother and the alleged father of the child shall be competent to testify, and if either gives evidence he or she shall be subject to cross-examination. The court may exclude the general public from the room where proceedings are held, pursuant to this act, admitting only persons directly interested in the case, including the officers of the court, officers or public welfare agents presenting the case, and witnesses.

(2) If the child is not born at the time set for trial, the case, unless the defendant mother or defendant father consents to trial, shall be continued until the child is born.

**History:** 1956, Act 205, Eff. Aug. 11, 1956 ;-- Am. 1966, Act 146, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967 ;-- Am. 1986, Act 107, Eff. June 1, 1986 ;-- Am. 1989, Act 258, Imd. Eff. Dec. 26, 1989 ;-- Am. 1998, Act 113, Eff. Aug. 10, 1998