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Rights and Responsibilities

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HB 775 By Representative Benjamin Provides Fathers in Florida With Shared Parental Rights and Responsibilities

TALLAHASSEE, **FLA.** - In a unanimous bi-partisan vote, **HB** 775 was passed today in the Florida House. It fosters clear and early communication between unwed parents. This bill gives parents, both mothers and fathers, the same parental rights from the beginning when the father signs an acknowledgement of paternity.

"This bill makes it clear that unwed fathers, who have acknowledged paternity, are entitled to more than just a child support obligation. They are entitled to visitation, and to be involved in all essential decision-making for their child. Simply put, these fathers are to be seen on equal footing as the mother in the eyes of the law," said **Representative Christopher Benjamin (D- Miami Gardens).** "Today is a good day for fathers in the State of Florida."