

## **Maternity**

*Maternity* refers to the name (generally first name + last name) of a person's mother.

When a woman marries, she may take her husband's last name, keep her own last name, or combine the two of them. Problems may arise because of these different options (which can also be culture-bound): what last name should be given when someone is asked to specify *maternity*?

Confusion may also arise when a person's mother has died, or when the natural mother was not the carer of that person.