

two (2) years of the date of such acknowledgement or the last such payment or provision; provided, that the institution of proceedings under the former Article 12 of this Code, title "Bastardy and Fornication," prior to June 1, 1963, shall suspend the further running of the period of limitations provided for herein.

#### *Paternity Proceedings*

##### **66A.**

*The General Assembly declares its conviction that the State has a duty to ameliorate the deprived social and economic status of children born out of wedlock and that the policies and procedures as contained in this subtitle and in Section 66 of this Article relative to establishing the paternity of such children, determining who shall have their custody or guardianship and who shall be charged with their maintenance and support are socially necessary and desirable, having as their threefold purpose (1) the promotion of the general welfare and best interests of such children by securing to them, as near as practical, the same right to support, care and education as legitimate children; (2) the imposition upon both parents of such children the basic obligations and responsibilities of parenthood and (3) the simplification of procedures.*

##### **66B.**

*(a) Except as hereinafter provided, every bill or petition filed pursuant to Section 66 of this Article with respect to an illegitimate child shall be supported by the oath of the woman who is pregnant with or has been delivered of such child, whether or not she is a formal party to said proceedings. If the woman is dead or otherwise physically or mentally incapable of making said oath or if she refuses to become the complainant or petitioner or to disclose the father of the child or to make such oath, the bill or petition may be filed without the oath, but the fact of the pregnancy or birth shall be verified by the complainant or petitioner and the woman if living, shall be made a party defendant.*

*(b) No bill or petition shall be filed or received by the Clerk of the Court unless there is attached thereto the consent or authorization of the State's Attorney of the county or city where the same is to be filed, unless the Court directs otherwise after being satisfied by such affidavits and testimony as the Court deems sufficient that the complaint is bona fide and meritorious.*

##### **66C.**

*If the complainant or petitioner is a public welfare official or if any other complainant or petitioner makes oath that he or she is without funds to obtain private counsel, it is the duty of the State's Attorney of the county or city where the bill or petition is filed to act on behalf of the complainant or petitioner without charge and in such cases no prepayment of court costs shall be required.*

##### **66D.**

*(a) The State's Attorney of the county or city, as the case may be, for the purpose of facilitating the performance of his duties under this subtitle, at any time either before or after the filing of a bill or*