

Offset, Cardi B, and Child Support Law: What the Presumption of Paternity Really Means

Cardi B, the Bronx-born rapper who rose to fame with her breakout single *Bodak Yellow*, has revealed that she is pregnant with her fourth child, her first with NFL star Stefon Diggs, and is expecting the baby before the start of her 2026 arena tour. The news comes during a complicated period in her personal life, as she remains legally married to her estranged husband, Offset, with whom she shares two children.

An intriguing question has arisen from this situation on social media; with Cardi B pregnant by Stefon Diggs while still legally married to Offset, could Offset be considered the legal father of the child and therefore liable for child support? At first glance, this may sound like nothing more than celebrity gossip. But beneath the gossip lies a very real legal principle that has shaped family law for centuries and continues to affect ordinary families today: the **presumption of paternity**.

The Presumption of Paternity

In most jurisdictions across the world, a long-standing rule in family law states that any child born to a married woman is legally presumed to be the child of her husband. This principle dates back hundreds of years, when lawmakers sought to protect children from the stigma of being born “illegitimate” and to ensure that every child had a legally responsible parent from birth.

The U.S. Supreme Court reaffirmed this doctrine in the case of *Michael H. v. Gerald D.* (1989). In that decision, the Court recognized that a husband could be deemed the legal father of a child even when DNA evidence indicated another man was the biological parent. The law, in other words, places a higher priority on the stability of marriage and the protection of children than on strict biological fact.

Also in Nigerian law, under Section 165 of the Evidence Act 2011, a child born during a valid marriage or within 280 days of its dissolution is presumed to be the legitimate child of the husband.

In applying the above principle of law to the situation, if Cardi B were to give birth before her divorce from Offset is finalized, Offset would be treated under the law as the child’s legal father. That designation could bring with it financial responsibilities, including potential child support obligations, even if Stefon Diggs were confirmed through DNA testing as the biological father.

Challenging this presumption is possible but requires formal legal action. Courts typically demand not just genetic testing but also a petition to legally establish paternity. Until such a ruling is made, the presumption remains in place, binding the offset to the role of legal father regardless of biology.

Although the Cardi B–Offset–Stefon Diggs scenario captures headlines, the legal principle it illustrates applies to countless families outside of Hollywood and the NFL. For divorcing couples, the presumption of paternity underscores that a marriage is still legally intact until the divorce decree is officially signed. This means a child conceived and born during that time will presumptively be considered the husband's.

It also highlights the distinction between biological and legal fatherhood. A biological father may have no automatic rights or responsibilities unless paternity is formally established, while a husband may bear legal obligations even in the absence of genetic connection. At its core, the presumption exists to protect children, prioritizing their financial and emotional security above disputes between adults.

In conclusion, the legal lesson is clear. The presumption of paternity remains one of the most enduring principles in family law, and it demonstrates how timing and marital status often carry greater weight than DNA.

For families in transition, the message is straightforward: until a divorce is finalized, the law presumes that any child born belongs to the husband. Challenging that presumption is possible, but it requires court involvement rather than mere DNA results.