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<b>Document information</b>	
Record office	Kent History Centre
Document reference	Q/SB10/78
Document type	Kent Sessions Order
Year	1667
Subject name	Thomas Purchen
Parish	Biddenden
Other names referred to within the document	Elizabeth Lackenden, John Henden, Richard Kyng
Other places/parishes	None
Key words	Children
Transcriber's notes	The document shows the responsibility, under the Poor Law, for the maintenance of an illegitimate when fatherhood had been established. The child is to be kept in the care of its mother until the age of eight years when it will be apprenticed. Payments for this and the child's upkeep will be borne by the father. Details of the arrangements for this and how it would not be a burden on the parish are shown.
Kent [se]ss[ions]/	The order of S[ai]r John Henden Kn[igh]t and Richard Kyng/ Esq[ui]re two of his Ma[jes]ties Justices of the peace, for this county/ whereof one of the Quorum, made this Fifth day of october/ in the 17th yeare of the Reigne of our Soveringe Lord King/ Charles the Second etc.. Touching the releife of ye p[ar]ish of/ Biddenden in ye County <And> for the keeping of a bastard male/ child begotten by one Thomas Purchen of ye said p[ar]ish Clothier/ on the body of one Elizabeth Lackenden of ye said p[ar]ish Singlewoman/
John Henden/	Whereas upon Due examinacion of ye <s[ai]d> Elizabeth Lackenden taken upon oath/ before us or one of us, wee doo finde, that the said Thomas Purchen, is charged/ to have had severall tymes bodyly & Carnall knowledg[e] of her body and to be ye/ only Father of the said bastard child and there ofore wee doo adjudge him, to be/ the reputed Father of ye said bastard child, wee doo likewise order that the/ Said Thomas Purchen upon notice of this our order doe Imm[e]diately, pay into/ the hands of ye churchwardens or ye overseeres of ye poore of the said p[ar]ish/of Biddenden, or into ye hands of one of them, the sum[m]e of ten Shillings/ for ye defraying the Charge they have already expended Towards the/ Maintenance of ye said bastard child, And further wee doe order that the said/ Elizabeth Lackenden shall keepe her said child untill it come to the Age of/ eight yeares. And also wee order that the said Thomas Purchen from and/ after ye Date of this our order, doe weekely & ev[e]ry weeke, During ye period/ of eight yeares, pay or [ar]range to be paid, unto ye Churchwardens or ov[er]seeres/ of ye poore of the p[ar]ish aforesaid for the tyme being or one of them, the/ sum[m]e of Fourteen pence towards ye keeping & Maintenance of the Said/ bastard child. And wee doe likewise order that after the said child shall come/ to ye Age of eight yeares, that then ye said Thomas Purchen doe forthwith pay/ unto the Churchwardens or ov[er]seeres of the poore of the said p[ar]ish for ye/ tyme being or to one of them the Sum[m]e of five pounds for the casting out/ of the said bastard child an Apprentice. And that the said Thomas Purchen/ doe presently give good secuery to ye p[ar]ish aforesaid, for the p[er]formance/ of this our order. Given under our hands & seales this 5th day of october/ Anno Dom[in]i 1667/
Richard Kyng	This order to be quashed & to be referred againe to Sir J.H./ [illegible] to examine and make a further order make further order.  [end first page, end of document]