

DNA PATERNITY TESTING FAQs

• What is DNA paternity testing?

Every person (with the exception of identical twins) has a unique genetic code identified by DNA found in each cell in the body. Genes come in different forms and sizes and are referred to as “alleles”. At each gene location each person has two different sized alleles, one inherited from the mother and one inherited by the biological father.

When the alleged father’s allele sizes do not match the child’s on at least three different genes, the paternity test proves conclusively that the tested man is not the biological father. When the tested man’s alleles match all of the child’s genes, the probability of paternity is determined. The average probability of paternity for our tests is greater than 99.99%, and unless rare mutations are identified, we guarantee a greater than 99.9% probability of paternity in all tests where the alleged father is not excluded as the father.

• What is Prenatal, Non-Invasive Paternity Testing?

We partner with a biotech company that has developed and patented a non-invasive prenatal test that simply requires a routine blood draw from the mother and buccal swab collection from the potential father. A small amount of the baby’s DNA is present in the mother’s blood, and that DNA is used to match the DNA from the potential father. Fetal DNA can be detected as early as 5 weeks and rises rapidly throughout the first trimester. If an additional blood draw is necessary due to inadequate fetal DNA in the initial draw, it is done at no additional cost. Tests can be completed with over 99% accuracy.

The company we partner with has been recognized and approved by the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and has received a certificate of accreditation under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA). The company has published the basis of this technology in top medical journals such as the New England Journal of Medicine, The Lancet, and the Journal of the American Medical Association.

• How much does a paternity test cost?

A legal DNA paternity test (mother, child, and alleged father) costs \$355.00. This includes sample collection and testing. The prenatal tests start at \$1,450.00 and specific pricing depends on gestation and the timing of results. A full price list is available via a link on our website.

• How does the In-Home, Self-Collection Testing Process Work?

Once you decide to complete the in-home option we will mail you a collection kit with instructions (a link to the instructions can be found in the “In-Home, Non-Legal” information section of the webpage). Included in the kit will be all of the materials needed for the collections and a pre-paid envelope for shipment to the lab.

We pre-fill portions of the information on the sample envelopes for your convenience. The DNA is collected using the swabs provided in the kit, which will be rubbed against the inside of the cheek of each person being tested. The kit will be then be shipped to the lab for testing.

Results are generally available within 2-3 business days after all samples are received by the lab, and the report can be sent to all parties via email, phone, or both.

Although these tests are non-legal because they are self-collected, the testing is completed by an AABB lab using the same standards utilized for legal testing.

Payment will be taken before the kit is shipped to the customer for collection.

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- **Can a paternity test be completed without the mother?**

Yes, a paternity test can be completed without the mother if she is not available and the results are typically just as accurate as those of a standard paternity test. We encourage mothers to participate because in some rare cases the allele matches between an alleged father and child prove inconclusive and the mother's participation allows for more conclusive results. Also, some courts require the mother to participate in a paternity test.

- **What forms of payment do you accept?**

We accept cash, money orders, and all major credit and debit cards.

- **Can the DNA samples be collected at my home or another location?**

Yes! For your privacy and convenience we have the ability to complete mobile collections. We can collect samples from your home, business, law offices, or any other suitable location. There are additional costs for this service, so please see the pricing link for details. Of course we also offer collections in our office if that is the most convenient option for you.

- **What should I bring to the appointment?**

All adult test participants should bring a valid government-issued ID such as a driver's license, state ID, military ID, or passport to the appointment. For minors, a birth certificate, social security card, or hospital birth record should be brought to the exam. If a photo ID is not available for an adult or minor child a photo is taken to establish identification. In all legal cases the child's legal custodian will have to sign a consent form allowing the minor to be tested.

- **How are the DNA samples collected?**

DNA is collected using cotton swabs that the collector will rub against the inside of the cheek to gather loose cheek cells. It is a very simple, painless, non-intrusive procedure. For prenatal testing a blood draw will be completed on the mother.

- **How quickly will I receive my results?**

For post-birth tests results will usually be available two to three business days after the date the DNA samples are collected. Next day results are available at an additional cost. For prenatal testing the results are available in either one or three weeks depending on the option selected.

- **How will I receive my results?**

For testing after the child is born our partner laboratory generates a one page report that outlines the genetic systems tested and the allele sizes for all parties tested. The report includes an interpretation paragraph and the resulting probability of paternity, or the probability of other relationships that may be tested. Initial results are sent to Para-Med-Ex from the laboratory within two to three business days after the date collected, and results are then communicated to our clients in the manner they have chosen. For legal tests, we will usually call the parties tested when the results are initially available, and then the notarized reports are mailed to Para-Med-Ex from the laboratory. We will then mail the reports to the clients with a cover letter, or they can be picked up at the office. For non-legal tests the reports can be communicated to all parties via email, phone, or both.

For prenatal tests the testing company will call the parties with the results of the test, and will also mail the report if requested.

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- **Will my tests be admissible in court?**

For testing after the child is born the tests are admissible in court. We utilize an AABB accredited laboratory, and when a legal test is ordered we strictly adhere to the chain of custody procedure during our sample collection process, and this makes our test results legally defensible. The report is a notarized document that can be presented in court as evidence of paternity or non-paternity.

For prenatal testing there is less established case law, and recognition by the courts may vary by jurisdiction. We recommend that you consult with a lawyer if you require the testing for legal purposes.