

PATERNITY TESTING APPLICATION PROCEDURE (COURT CASE)

DNA QLD is a Queensland owned paternity testing facility. DNA QLD processes all samples utilizing the most stringent DNA kit available on the commercial market which provides results in excess of 99.99% for father and child testing and 99.9999% when the maternal DNA is also tested. We are accredited to the highest International standards of ISO 17025 and with the National Association of Australian Testing Authorities.

- Please complete the application form and return with the payment in the prepaid envelope.
- Once your application and payment have been received, DNA QLD staff will contact each person (or their solicitor) to arrange an appointment and a place for the DNA sample collection.
- DNA swab sample collection can take place at your preferred Medical Practitioner, a pathology collection centre or via other arrangements suitable under the Australian Family Law Courts. DNA QLD has a free collection facility in the Brisbane CBD. When having a collection at DNA QLD's CBD office, we can collect the DNA and witness and stamp the legal affidavit, which makes it easy for clients. Collections which are done at a DNA QLD preferred collection centre, or DNA QLD will be free of charge to the client. Clients must bear the cost of a collection at their Medical practitioner.
- On the day of the sample collection, each person to be tested must complete Part I of Form 2. **Form 2 must be signed and witnessed before an approved person (e.g. Justice of the Peace, Solicitor, Police Officer) on the day of sample collection prior to your appointment. DO NOT SEND THIS FORM TO DNA QLD; it must be taken to the collection center or doctor's rooms. FORM 2 requires a passport sized photo to be attached for each person having a sample taken.**
- For children under the age of 18 years, their legal guardian must complete Part II of Form 2 and have it **signed and witnessed before an approved person (e.g. Justice of the Peace, Solicitor, Police Officer) on the day of sample collection prior to your appointment.**
- Each person who is having a sample collected must take with them the completed FORM 2 and two **passport-sized photographs, with a full view of head and shoulders against a plain background.** Separate photographs are required for each person. Also, each person must bring with them either, photo ID (such as driver's license or passport) or two of the following: Medicare card, repatriation card or pension card.
- Do not eat, drink, smoke or breastfeed (drink water is acceptable) for at least 30 minutes prior to having your samples collected.
- The person collecting your sample will complete **FORM 4**, by attaching your photographs and signing them, so that it is evident if they are removed.
- If you have any questions regarding the collection process, please call DNA QLD on 1300 172 837 in business hours. If the phone is unattended, you may leave a message or call the after hours mobile number recorded on the message bank. We are happy to answer all queries at any hour.
- As soon as all samples are received, the case will be promptly processed. We endeavor to have the results mailed within 5 working days of the receipt of the samples, usually sooner.
- Results will be mailed to the alleged father and the mother by registered mail. No results will be given over the phone or faxed to the mother or alleged father. A copy may be faxed to a nominated lawyer if has official notification. DNA QLD
- Many issues involving paternity testing can be highly emotional. Counseling prior to, and following testing is recommended. DNA QLD can provide the name of a Clinical Psychologist if requested.
Please contact DNA QLD if you have any questions about the paternity test.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PATERNITY TESTING

What is paternity testing?

A paternity test is conducted to prove paternity, that is, whether a man is the biological father of a child. This may be relevant in view of rights and duties of the father. DNA testing is accepted worldwide as the most accurate method of determining paternity. In Australia, it is believed that at least 1 in 5 men who are uncertain about the paternity of their children will have their uncertainty confirmed by paternity DNA testing.

Why is testing done?

One of the primary benefits of DNA testing outside of the criminal justice field is to assist women who are seeking financial support for their children. In cases where a man denies that he is the biological father, DNA paternity testing can confirm or exclude a biological relationship and allow the courts to determine whether or not a man is legally responsible for child support payments or can alter the name of a child on a birth certificate. If the testing is required for a Family Law case, please consult your lawyer first.

Men who are seeking custody or visitation rights may avail themselves of the benefits of DNA testing. Again, a DNA paternity test provides crucial confirmation of the existence of a biological relationship between father and child. This confirmation is necessary before awarding custody or visitation rights. Some men merely need to gain peace of mind regarding their relationship to a child. One of the benefits of DNA testing is being able to conclusively establish or exclude a relationship. Adopted children may someday wish to find their biological parents. DNA testing will allow them to confirm the biological relationship between themselves and their possible biological heritage. Legal DNA testing is required by the Family Law Court, Child Support Agencies and Births, Deaths and Marriages. Legal DNA testing is also required for immigration applications and estates and wills.

Can testing be arranged throughout Australia?

For legal cases, DNA QLD can facilitate the testing using over 250 pathology collection centres in Australia. It is not a difficulty if the clients reside in separate states of Australia, as the collection is done by authorised collectors.

What is tested?

DNA testing is done on specific areas on the DNA chain where there are repeated sequences that are individual to each person; these are called 'short tandem repeats'. A child inherits half its DNA from each parent. Every repeat that is found in the child's DNA must be found in the alleged mother's and father's sample - if not, then it can be determined which parent's DNA matches or does not match. This is proof of parentage to a minimum certainty of 99.9999%, and proof of non-parentage as 100%. Short tandem repeat testing is highly accurate with the chance of misidentification being one in several billion.

How long before the results are available?

95% of the cases are processed with 24 hours of receipt. You will be advised of any processing delays. The results are sent out by Australia Post Registered Post for security. Please be advised that any delays in receiving the results may be due to Australia Post. Results will be sent by Express post to WA, Tasmania and the NT. Contact details for counselling services will also be sent with the results.

Why is paternity testing cheaper at some laboratories?

DNA QLD uses the latest DNA technology to provide results with a 99.9999% inclusion rate (if maternal DNA is tested). Companies offering less expensive testing on internet sites are often using old technology that is prone to producing inconclusive results and are far less accurate. DNA QLD's proof of parentage is accurate to 99.9999%. If testing was advertised with 99.99% proof of parentage, this would be 100 times less accurate than DNA QLD's testing. Many of these companies are not based in Australia. Some of the laboratories have hidden costs and the final cost of the test may be much more than the internet price. There are no extra costs with DNA QLD. DNA QLD is the preferred testing facility for Healthscope Molecular, Gribbles Pathology, Davies Campbell Lambert throughout Australia and Asia. DNA QLD is also a provider for QML and numerous Family Law firms and Child Support Agencies Australia wide.