**Avuncular Test Information**

# TESTED INDIVIDUALS: NIECE OR NEPHEW AND ALLEGED AUNT OR UNCLE

An avuncular test is used to determine the statistical probability that an individual is the biological aunt or biological uncle of another tested individual. The standard sample types for relationship testing are buccal swabs and FTA (blood) card.

# SUMMARY

A direct paternity tests is always the best option to determine a biological relationship between a child and alleged father. In instances where the alleged father is unavailable or unwilling to participate in DNA testing, an avuncular test is another option to consider. An avuncular test includes an alleged aunt or alleged uncle and a child. It is highly recommended that the mother be included in the test whenever possible in order to strengthen the results.

Avuncular results are reported in a different manner than paternity test results. Avuncular results will provide a probability percentage indicating the likelihood of relatedness to the child based on the genetic material exhibited by each person. The strength of the tests will vary and may not provide conclusive results.

Avuncular tests can be used for legal or informational purposes. A legally-binding test result can hold up in court and has no expiration date. An informational test is as accurate as a legally-binding test but the results cannot be used in a legal capacity such as child support or custody matters.

# INTERPRETATION OF AVUNCULAR TEST RESULTS

A relationship index greater than 1.00 (or greater than a 50% probability) indicates that the alleged aunt or uncle is more likely to be related to the child than to be unrelated to the child. The higher the value of the index, the greater the likelihood of relatedness. A relationship index that is less than 1.00 (or less than a 50% probability) indicates that the test participants are more likely to be unrelated.

# LEGAL AVUCULAR TESTING REQUIREMENTS

For a test to be legally-binding the sample collection(s) must be performed by a competent individual that has no interest in the outcome of the case. The collector cannot be a relative, neighbor, co-worker, etc.

Each tested adult participant must provide a valid (not expired) government issued Photo ID. A legible copy of the ID or a clear photo of the individual taken within the past month must accompany the collected samples to the lab. When possible, it is recommended that the color copies be provided instead of black and white.

The collector will complete, date and sign the “Collector Information” section of the COC and will control the samples until they are placed into a sealed, traceable mailer and relinquished to the courier for shipment to the lab.

Consent is required for all test participants. For every child under the age of 18, a parent, guardian, or conservator must sign their own name on the COC on the consent line just below the printed child’s name. If a parent of the child being tested is under 18, they also must have their legal guardian sign the consent line under their printed name. This is not required if the person under 18 has a court order of emancipation. Proof of the court ordered emancipation must be submitted with the test. A court order requiring a DNA test be performed which includes all test participants’ names will be accepted in place of consent.

# RESULTS

Results will be available in approximately 1-2 business days after the samples and correct paperwork are received at the lab.