**Maternity Test Information**

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# TESTED INDIVIDUALS: ALLEGED MOTHER AND CHILD

A maternity test is used to confirm the biological relationship between a mother and child. Maternity 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.

The standard sample types for relationship testing are buccal swabs and FTA (blood) cards.

# LEGAL MATERNITY 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.

Each adult participant must produce a government issued photo ID. A copy of the ID or a clear individual photo taken within the past month must accompany the collected sample to the lab. When possible, it is recommended that color copies be provided in leu of black and white.

The collector will complete 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.

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 (**NOT the child’s name)** on the consent line just below the printed child’s name on the COC. 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 1-2 business days after the samples and correct paperwork are received at the lab.