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# Paternity Test Information

# TESTED INDIVIDUALS: ALLEGED FATHER, CHILD AND MOTHER

The only **required** parties for a paternity test are the alleged father and child, however, the biological mother’s sample is recommended because it helps strengthen the test results. If there is a possibility that two or more alleged fathers are directly related to one another, it is highly recommended that both men be tested and the mother should always be tested to prevent the chances of false inclusion results.

Paternity 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 or FTA blood cards. If these sample types are not available, non-standard samples such as fingernails, hair (with root/follicle) toothbrushes, etc. can be tested.

If a paternity test result is inconclusive, we recommend that the mother is added as a participant in the test. There will be an additional fee if the mother is added to the test after the alleged father and child have already been tested.

If, for instance, the paternity test result is inconclusive it may be that the biological father or child may have a DNA mutation, or the alleged father and biological father may be first-order related.

# LEGAL PATERNITY 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. This means a relative, co-worker, neighbor, etc. cannot perform the collection.

Each adult participant must provide a copy of a current government issued photo ID. A copy of his/her ID or a clear photo taken within the past month must accompany the collected sample(s) to the lab. When possible, it is recommended that the color copies be provided instead 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 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 **(not the child’s 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 1-2 business days after the samples and correct paperwork are received at the lab.