# Missing Parent Test Information

# TESTED INDIVIDUALS: BOTH PATERNAL GRANDPARENTS, MOTHER AND CHILD

A missing parent test is used to test both paternal grandparents when the alleged father is not available for testing. This test is the next best test to perform if the alleged father is unavailable for a paternity test The standard sample types for a missing parent test are buccal swabs and 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.

# SUMMARY

A direct paternity tests is always the best option to determine a biological relationship between a child and an alleged father. In instances where the alleged father is unavailable or unwilling to participate in DNA testing, a missing parent test is the next best option to consider. A missing parent test includes both paternal grandparents, mother of the child and child. It is highly recommended that the mother be included in the test whenever possible in order to strengthen the results.

Missing parent results are reported in a different manner than paternity test results. Missing Parent results will indicate a probability of relatedness and state they are more or less likely to be related to the child based on the genetic material exhibited by each person. The strength of the tests will vary. In rare cases it can result in inconclusive results.

Missing parent 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 MISSING PARENT TEST RESULTS

A relationship index greater than 1.00 (or greater than a 50% probability) indicates that the alleged grandparents are 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 MISSING PARENT 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 valid government issued photo ID. A copy of his/her ID or a clear individual 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.