

PATERNITY TESTING

At Paternity For Life, we understand that for many clients this will be the first time they have undertaken DNA testing. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding testing or would like to know more.

What is a DNA test?

Deoxyribonucleic acid, more commonly known as DNA, is a molecule found in most cells in the human body. DNA contains all the information necessary to build and maintain the human body and forms the unique genetic code of each individual. It is what determines your eye colour, hair colour, how tall you are, and everything about your physical appearance and more.

DNA is passed on from generation to generation. Half of your DNA is passed on by your mother, and the other half by your father. By comparing specific areas of DNA, a DNA test can be used to determine paternity and maternity, as well as other relationships.

What is a Paternity Test?

A Home Paternity test is a simple and discreet way to easily confirm whether an alleged father is the biological father of a child or children. 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.

Maternity testing can also be carried out to confirm whether an alleged mother is the biological mother of a child.

Who needs to provide a sample for testing?

For paternity testing a sample is required from the alleged father and child/children. For peace of mind testing, the mother's DNA is not usually required.

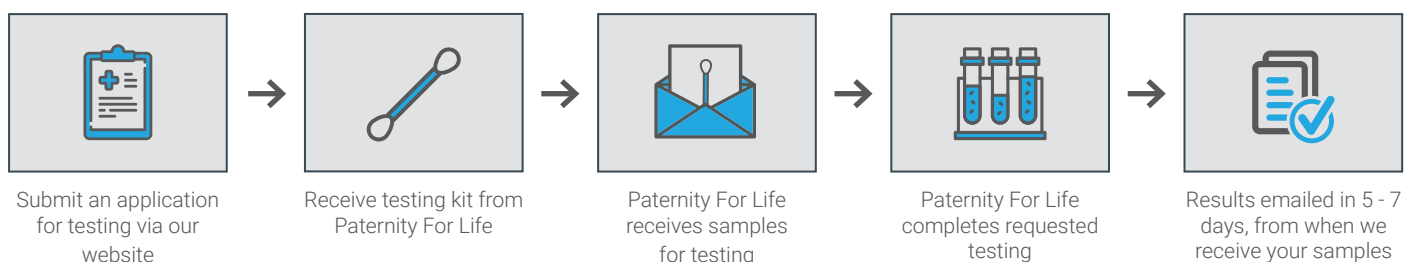


What type of sample is needed for testing?

DNA is extracted from cells collected from the inside of the mouth. Paternity For Life uses mouth swabs for a simple and painless collection process. Samples are collected by rubbing the mouth swab on the inside of your cheek. We will mail a collection kit which contains everything you need to collect your samples and instructions on how to do so. Please see our Discreet Testing page on our website for more information regarding non-standard samples.

Are your kits discreet?

Yes, our kits are sent out in unmarked mail satchels that do not contain any of our company logos or details.



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What is tested in a DNA test?

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 their 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 99.9%, and proof of non-parentage as 100%. Short tandem repeat testing is highly accurate with the chance of mis-identification being one in several billion.

How long before the results are available?

Typically, Once ALL the samples have been received at the laboratory, the results will be available in 3 to 5 working days. Paternity For Life aims to have your results back to you as soon as possible. Express options are available for an additional cost. Please contact us for more information.

How do I get my results?

All test results will be emailed to the mother and alleged father, to the email address provided at time of application. Your results are confidential, and no results or information will be given to anyone other than the parties tested.

Why have my results been delayed?

In some cases the turnaround-time may be delayed due to paperwork being completed incorrectly by the client, or the sample being collected incorrectly. If not enough DNA is collected, the sample will need to be re-processed or recollected and this may delay results. Paternity For Life will notify you if this is the case.



What happens to my DNA samples after testing?

DNA samples are held for 6 months after the issue of results before being destroyed. Your samples will not be used for any further testing without your express given consent.

Is Paternity Life accredited to undertake Paternity testing?

Paternity For Life and our partner laboratory are accredited to the highest standard by NATA and ILAC. We are an ISO 17025 rated lab, which is an internationally recognized standard of quality. Paternity For Life also participates in proficiency testing through the College of American Pathologists, which ensure we comply with testing standards standard with the top testing laboratories worldwide.

