

Fast

Confidential

Conclusive

Court Approved

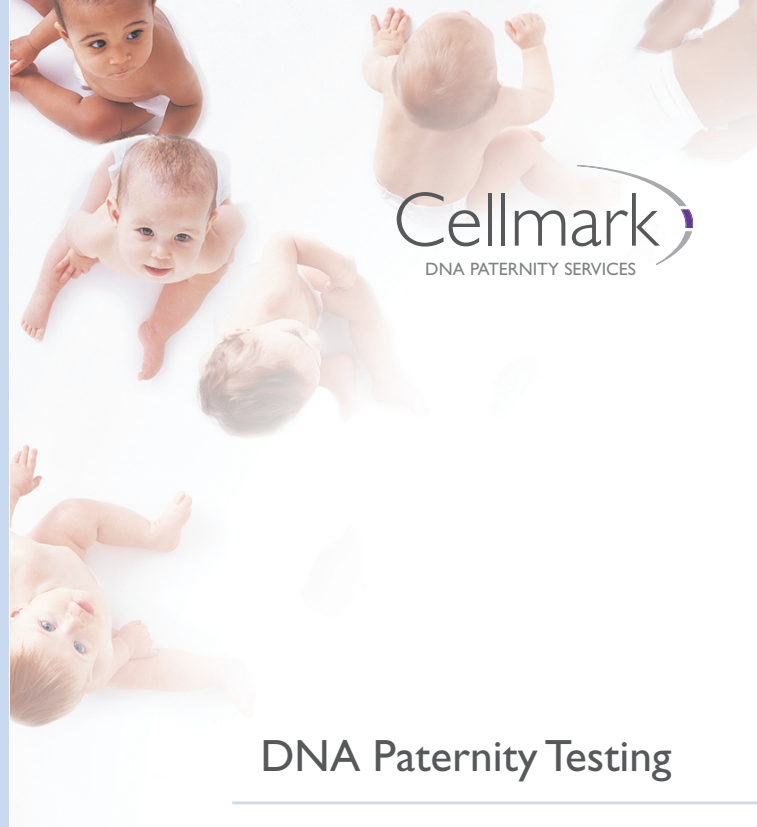
Reliable

Experienced

All testing in the UK



Tel: 0800 036 2522 PO Box 265 ABINGDON Oxon OX14 1YX  
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Cellmark  
DNA PATERNITY SERVICES

## DNA Paternity Testing

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Your questions  
answered

Cellmark has been accredited by the Ministry of Justice as a body that may carry out parentage tests as directed by the civil courts in England and Wales under section 20 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969



## introduction

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Since 1987 Cellmark has conducted hundreds of thousands of DNA tests and is the UK's most experienced DNA relationship tester. Throughout this time Cellmark has helped many thousands of people conclude paternity issues.

The decision to have a paternity test should not be taken lightly. We urge you to consider all the parties involved and to decide whether this is the best course of action, particularly for the child in question.

As the results of a paternity test can sometimes be unexpected and the implications far reaching we recommend that you discuss the issues and possible outcomes with a third party, either a friend or family member or an independent advice service (details can be found at the back of this booklet).

## for more information

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go online at  
**www.cellmark.co.uk**



or call customer services FREE on:

**0800 036 2522**

Monday 8.30am to 7.00pm,

Tuesday - Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm

## the procedure

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1. Having decided that this is the correct course of action you can either complete your registration online at [www.cellmark.co.uk](http://www.cellmark.co.uk), or contact our Customer Services team by telephone: 0800 036 2522, or by email [info@cellmark.co.uk](mailto:info@cellmark.co.uk) to request a registration form.
2. You must then arrange a convenient time for a doctor's appointment either with your own GP or one from the list we supply for the DNA samples to be taken. You should allow at least 5 days for Cellmark to deliver the sample kit to the chosen doctor. If you have difficulties we may be able to help you arrange an appointment
3. Complete the registration form and return it with full payment either by credit / debit card or by cheque to Cellmark (unless the case is being publicly funded\*).

You can now register a paternity or maternity test case online – if you are a private individual you will need to pay for the test in advance by Credit/Debit card.

4. Cellmark will then send the sampling kits to your chosen doctor.
5. You must remember to take two passport-sized photographs with you to the doctor's appointment. This is for purposes of identification.
6. The doctor will then send the mouth swab samples and photo identification back to Cellmark's laboratories in Oxfordshire in specially designed tamper-evident packaging.
7. Within approximately 3-5 working days the testing report will be despatched to you by first class post.

\* In order to obtain public funding you will need to contact a solicitor.

# your questions answered

## What is DNA paternity testing?

DNA paternity testing is a complex scientific process, carried out on a simple mouth swab, which can positively identify relationships between people. Most commonly it is used to establish if a man is the true biological father of a child.

DNA paternity testing is also often referred to simply as a DNA test, a paternity test or DNA testing. It was developed by Sir Alec Jeffreys at the University of Leicester in 1985. Cellmark became the UK's first private DNA paternity testing laboratory in 1987.

DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) is the body's genetic 'blueprint'. It is a long thread-like molecule which carries the "genetic code" that determines our individual characteristics. DNA is found in almost all of the billions of cells that make up our body. Every child inherits a unique mixture of DNA from its parents so, except for identical twins, no two people in the world have exactly the same genetic code.

## How does DNA testing work?

It works by detecting certain parts, or "markers" in the DNA molecule that are known to vary greatly between unrelated people. Our tests compare the DNA at a number of these markers to determine if people are related.

The process is called Short Tandem Repeat (STR) profiling. STR profiling is a very sensitive DNA testing procedure that was originally developed for forensic analysis. DNA is extracted from the sample and a special enzyme is used to copy the genetic code at the relevant regions in the DNA. An STR profile is the result of several separate DNA tests.

## How long will the test take?

Cellmark produces standard reports within 3-5 working days from when we receive the samples in our laboratory. If you are happy that it is in everyone's best interest you can start the process now.

Completing our online registration form will only take a few minutes, however you will need to see a Doctor or Nurse to have your DNA sample taken. Once we've received your sample it only takes a few days to get the results to you by first class post.



## Are the results conclusive?

When a mother, child and possible father are tested Cellmark's results will either show he is not the father or provide proof of paternity with a confidence level of 99.99% and usually greater than 99.999%.

We also carry out other types of relationship testing, for further details please contact our Customer Service team on 0800 036 2522.

## Is the service confidential?

Yes, under the requirements of UK Data Protection laws, the service and results are confidential. All adult parties who have submitted a sample for analysis will receive a copy of the report. Results are not passed on to any third parties unless you request us to do so. In order to further protect confidentiality we do not discuss results of tests over the telephone.



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## your questions answered

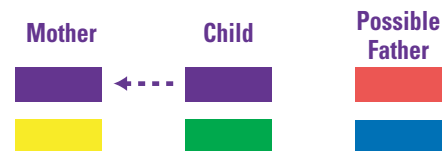
### How are the results analysed?

When carrying out a paternity test the DNA patterns of the mother, the child and the alleged father are compared using the latest DNA analysis technology. A child inherits half of his or her DNA from each parent, so every genetic marker in the child's pattern should be present in either the mother's or father's DNA.

*In this example the test has identified two markers in the child's DNA (purple and blue). One of the child's markers (purple) has been inherited from its mother; the other (blue) has been inherited from its father.*



*In this example the alleged father does not share the green marker inherited from the true biological father and is therefore excluded from paternity.*



### How are the DNA samples taken?

You will need to make an appointment have your samples taken by a Doctor or a Nurse. At that appointment a mouth swab will be rubbed gently and painlessly on the inside of your mouth to collect a sample of cheek cells.

You will also need to complete a consent form at the surgery (please remember to take 2 passport style photographs of each person being tested to the appointment) and these and the sample will then sent to Cellmark by the surgery.

### How do I confirm who is being tested?

Two passport sized photographs and the signatures of each person being tested must be presented at the sampling appointment. These can be used to confirm the identity of the person(s) being tested and are sent with the samples to Cellmark.

In paternity cases all identification paperwork is held by Cellmark for a period of one year after which time the paperwork is destroyed in compliance with our registration with the Data Protection Act.

### From what age can a child be tested?

The use of mouth swabs means that testing can be performed on a child of any age after birth.



## your questions answered

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### **What about Quality Control?**

Our quality management system has met ISO standards since 1990 and our laboratory procedures are accredited to ISO9001:2000 and ISO17025 and are subject to external monitoring. We also adhere to the voluntary Code of Practice on Genetic Paternity Testing in the UK and comply with the requirements of the Human Tissue Act 2004.

### **Can other relationships be tested?**

In certain circumstances it may be possible to assess more complex relationships such as brothers and sisters or grandparents and grandchildren. For more information please contact our Customer Service team on **0800 036 2522**.

### **How can I pay for the test?**

You can pay for your paternity test with a credit or debit card via our online registration service. The service uses secure server technology to ensure that your data and all records of the transaction are protected.

If you would prefer not to pay online please contact our Customer Services advisors on **0800 036 2522** to register and pay for your test.

### **Will my DNA sample be safe?**

The samples are sent to our laboratories in specially designed tamper-evident packaging. Once testing is complete and you have received the results, your DNA sample is stored securely for 3 months after which time it is destroyed.

In paternity cases all identification paperwork is held by Cellmark for a period of one year after testing is complete after which time it is destroyed in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

As directed by Data Protection laws your information will not be passed onto anyone you have not given us authorisation to do so. For further information please refer to our privacy policy, you can learn more about the Act by visiting the website of the Information commissioner - <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>.



**Cellmark**  
DNA PATERNITY SERVICES

## your questions answered

### **Code of Practice and Guidance on Genetic Paternity Testing**

The Code of Practice sets out standards to be expected of organisations which provide genetic testing services direct to the public.

### **Ministry of Justice**

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for maintaining a list of accredited bodies able to carry out court-directed tests for parentage as required under section 20 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969. This list is a procedural device to allow the court to identify a tester in such situations.

### **The Human Tissue Act 2004.**

It is an offence under section 45 of the Act to have any bodily material (i.e. material which has come from a human body and which consists of or includes human cells) with intent to analyse the DNA in it without qualifying consent.

### **DNA**

DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) is the body's genetic 'blueprint'. It is a long thread-like molecule that carries the genetic code that determines our individual characteristics. DNA is found in almost all of the billions of cells that make up the human body.

A child inherits a unique mixture of DNA from its parents so that, except for identical twins, no two people in the world have exactly the same genetic code.

### **Short Tandem Repeat (STR) Profiling**

DNA is extracted from your sample and then 15 different tests are conducted to produce a DNA profile which can be used for identification or relationship analysis.

## further assistance

### **What if I need assistance after testing is complete?**

We do not give out or discuss results over the telephone, however we are pleased to answer written enquiries about your specific results and to talk through general issues relating to DNA paternity testing.

We do of course recognise that there may be wider issues resulting from the paternity test results that you require assistance with. Below is a list of organisations which may be able to assist you further:

### **England**

National Council for One Parent Families  
[www.oneparentfamilies.org.uk](http://www.oneparentfamilies.org.uk)

### **Relate**

[www.relate.org.uk](http://www.relate.org.uk)

### **Citizens Advice Bureau**

[www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

### **The National Family and Parenting Institute**

[www.nfpi.org](http://www.nfpi.org)

### **Parentline Plus**

[www.parentlineplus.org.uk](http://www.parentlineplus.org.uk)

### **Scotland**

One Parent Families Scotland  
[www.opfs.org.uk](http://www.opfs.org.uk)