



DNA PATERNITY
TESTING
YOUR QUESTIONS
ANSWERED

Need some advice on testing?
Call us free on: 0800 036 2522

Introduction

Since 1987 Cellmark has conducted over half a million DNA relationship tests and is the UK's most experienced DNA paternity 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



Go ONLINE at: www.cellmark.co.uk



CALL Customer Services FREE on: **0800 036 2522**

[Monday 8.30am to 7.00pm Tuesday - Friday 8.30am to 6.00pm]



The Procedure

FROM BEGINNING TO END:

1. Having decided that this is the correct course of action you can either complete your registration online at www.cellmark.co.uk, or contact our Customer Services team by telephone: 0800 036 2522.
2. Cellmark will assist with arranging a convenient time for an appointment for the DNA samples to be taken either using our dedicated sampling service, or with your own GP or one from the list we supply. You should allow at least 2 days for Cellmark to deliver the sample kit to the chosen doctor.
3. If you elect to use our sampling service they will have the kits and the paperwork; if you choose to use your own GP Cellmark will send the sampling kit(s) to your chosen doctor.
4. No photographs are required if you use our sampling service as they will be taken digitally. However, if you use a GP you will need to take two passport-sized photographs or photo ID with you to confirm your identity.
5. The sampler will then send the mouth swab samples and photo identification back to Cellmark's laboratories in Oxfordshire in specially designed tamper-evident packaging.
6. If your samples reach us by 10am we can get the test report to you by the end of the next working day!.

Your questions answered

What is DNA paternity testing?

DNA paternity testing is a complex scientific process which can accurately 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 a simple mouth swab and a special enzyme is used to copy the genetic code at the relevant regions in the DNA. Cellmark uses up to 24 (DNA) tests to produce a DNA profile.

How long will the test take?

Cellmark delivers a next working day DNA Relationship testing service - as standard - across our range of tests - including immigration and sibling cases. If your samples reach us by 10am we can get the test report to you by the end of the next working day!

First, however, you will need to have your DNA sample taken either by our sampling service or by making an appointment with your GP.



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 99.999% and frequently much higher.

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

Is the service confidential?

Yes, under the requirements of UK Data Protection laws, and our ISO27001 information security accreditation, Cellmark's service and results are confidential. Results are not passed on to any third parties unless you request us to do so but all adult parties who have submitted a sample for analysis are entitled to request a copy of the report. In order to further protect confidentiality we do not discuss results of tests over the telephone.

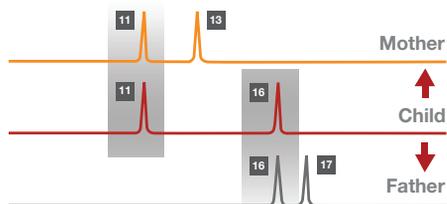


Your questions answered

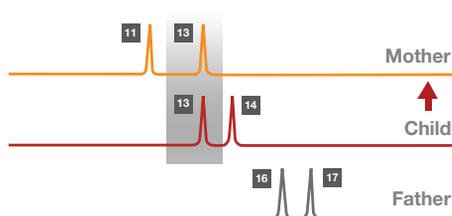
How are the results analysed?

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. One of the child's markers (11) has been inherited from the mother; the other (16) has been inherited from the father.



In this example the alleged father does not share the marker (14) inherited from the true biological father and is therefore excluded from paternity.



How are the DNA samples taken?

Cellmark offers a dedicated and flexible sampling service and our samplers will take your samples at a convenient time and location. Alternatively you can choose to use a GP or nurse.

At the 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 sampling appointment (and if using a GP please remember to take 2 passport style photographs, or photo ID of each person being tested to the appointment) and these and the sample will then be sent to Cellmark by the sampler.



How is identification confirmed?

Photographic ID and the signatures of each person being tested must be collected at the sampling appointment. The photographs (or copies of the photo ID) are sent with the samples to Cellmark.

The photographs and signatures can then be used to confirm the identity of the people who have been tested.

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

What about Quality Control?

Our quality management system has met ISO quality standards since 1990. Our laboratory is accredited to ISO9001, ISO17025, ISO14001 and ISO27001 and we are subject to regular external monitoring. We also adhere to the Human Genetic Commission's Common Framework of Principles for direct-to-consumer genetic testing services and comply with the requirements of the Human Tissue Act 2004.



Can other relationships be tested?

We routinely assess a range of other relationships such as brothers and sisters or grandparents and grandchildren. For more information please contact our Customer Services 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 or over the phone. The online service uses secure server technology to ensure that your data and all records of the transaction are protected.

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 will be stored securely for 3 months before being 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 on our website. You can learn more about the Act by visiting the website of the Information commissioner - <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>.



Go ONLINE at: www.cellmark.co.uk



Guiding principles

The Common Framework of Principles on direct to consumer genetic testing

The purpose of these Principles from the Human Genetics Commission is to promote high standards and consistency in the provision of genetic tests amongst commercial providers at an international level in order to safeguard the interests of people seeking genetic testing and their families.

The 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.

The Human Tissue Act 2004.

The Human Tissue Act 2004 (HT Act) covers England, Wales and Northern Ireland with the exception of the provisions relating to the use of DNA, which also apply to Scotland. The HT Act established the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) to regulate activities concerning the removal, storage, use and disposal of human tissue.

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.

Further assistance

What if I need assistance after testing is complete?

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

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

Citizens Advice Bureau
www.adviceguide.org.uk

Family Lives
www.familylives.org.uk

Family Rights Group
www.frg.org.uk

Gingerbread
www.gingerbread.org.uk

Netmums
www.netmums.com

One Parent Families Scotland
www.opfs.org.uk

Relate
www.relate.org.uk



ACCURATE



RECOMMENDED



CONFIDENTIAL



CONVENIENT



ACCREDITED

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