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## How to get paternity test

A legal paternity test is a genetic test to determine whether a man is the biological father of a child. If a man is the biological father, the man is deemed by law to have “paternity.” Courts will order biological fathers (fathers who have paternity) to pay child support. Biological fathers may also file a petition with a court seeking to adopt the child. Biological fathers may also be given custody and visitation rights. The law cannot force a paternity test. This means that a potential father can refuse to submit to testing, even after the mother, child, and other potential fathers have been tested. However, the refusal is not without penalty. When a woman files a lawsuit seeking to establish paternity, the court orders the man to submit to testing. A man’s refusal to be tested can constitute contempt of court. Contempt of court is punishable by jail time and fines. In addition, a man who refuses to take the test, and otherwise fails to respond to the lawsuit, can have a default judgment taken against them. A default judgment is one that automatically gives a plaintiff (in this case, the mother) the remedy they sought. Remedies include payment of child support. This means that, if a man refuses to submit to paternity testing, the court may order the man to make child support payments. Can a Potential Father Request a Paternity Test? A man who alleges that he is a child’s biological father may ask a court to permit him to undergo paternity testing. This request is typically made as part of a lawsuit filed by the man to establish paternity. Lawsuits brought to establish paternity are known as filiation proceedings. State laws may limit a man’s ability to file a lawsuit to establish paternity. Many states do not permit a man to initiate filiation proceedings if the child has already been in a father-child relationship with their “current” father (who may be the woman’s husband or partner) for a period of years, usually five or more. The father with whom the child currently resides with is referred to as the presumed father. A presumed father is a man who is the child’s father, for all legal purposes. Presumption of fatherhood, or presumption of paternity, is established when either the father is married to the child’s birth mother, or the father’s name appears on the child’s birth certificate. The law treats the presumptive father as the legal father, with custodial and legal rights and responsibilities, unless and until a man is able to establish paternity through the paternity test. How Do I Get a Court-Ordered Paternity Test? For a court order a paternity test, the man seeking to establish paternity must file a paternity petition in family court. If an individual cannot afford an attorney, and is interested in knowing how to get a court-ordered paternity test without a lawyer, the clerk of the court can assist with providing the filing documents. The clerk cannot give legal advice. At the paternity hearing, the judge hears evidence on the issue of paternity, and reviews the results of any paternity testing. What Happens if the Father Doesn’t Show up for a Paternity Test? If a man seeking to establish paternity does not attend the paternity test, the man is in contempt of the court order that required him to do so. The man may be held in contempt of court. In addition, if the man does not appear, the court may grant a default judgment against him. This means the court may dismiss his case. Can a Mother Refuse a Paternity Test? A mother may seek to have a man submit to a paternity test. If the test results reveal the man to be the biological father, the mother may seek child support from that person. However, for this to happen, the mother must cooperate during the testing process. If the court requires the mother to take the test, and the mother refuses, paternity will not be established. As a result, the mother’s claim for child support will be dismissed. Can the Results of a Paternity Test Be Contested? Court ordered paternity test results can be contested if there is evidence of fraud associated with the test results. Such fraud may include a father’s having another individual take the test, or tampering with the lab results. Additionally, the results may be contested if the father demonstrates that he is infertile or sterile, and thus is incapable of being the biological father. Do I Need an Attorney for Assistance with Paternity Test Issues? If you have an issue regarding establishment of paternity, you should contact a family lawyer. An experienced family attorney near you can explain your rights and responsibilities. This attorney can also assist you with filing paternity hearing documents, and can represent you in court. AABB Accrediting organization for paternity testing. (Formerly known as the American Association of Blood Banks) Accreditation The recognition of an accrediting organization that the company’s services consistently conform with the standards set by the accrediting organization. Admissible A document or expert testimony is considered to be “admissible” when it is accepted as evidence in a judicial matter. Affidavit A sworn statement in writing made especially under oath or on affirmation before an authorized magistrate or officer. Alleged Father A man who may be the biological father of a child Allele Any of the variations of a gene that may occur at a given locus. Antemortem At-Home (Non-legal Paternity DNA Test) A test where the biological specimens are collected in a non-clinical setting without the usual Chain of Custody procedures. Results from an at-home collection are not intended for use in legal matters. These tests are not governed by accrediting organizations. Autopsy Sample An autopsy sample is one which is collected by a coroner or medical examiner during the examination of a body after death. Such samples usually consist of a blood sample. Autosomal DNA Autosomal DNA is the DNA derived from all of the chromosomes (22 pairs in total) except the sex chromosomes (X & Y). A routine STR test involves the examination of a small percentage of the total autosomal DNA. The autosomal DNA examined in a DNA paternity test is non-coding, meaning that the DNA tested is not responsible for the generation of any physical characteristics of the person. Biological Father Sometimes called Birth Father or the Natural Father. The Biological Father normally contributes 50% of his DNA to the child. Buccal Swab This type of sample is collected using cotton-tipped applicators that are rubbed inside a person’s mouth on the inner lining of the cheek. The samples which are collected are cheek cell samples, not saliva samples. Also known as a cheek swab. Chain of Custody This term refers to the paper trail showing the collection, possession, control, transfer, analysis and disposition of physical evidence. In any Legal DNA case, the Chain of Custody of the sample is of utmost importance. Therefore, Labcorp has developed strict procedures and systems to ensure that the procedures have been followed. Chain of Custody involves procedures that apply to the following steps of a DNA test: Identification of the tested party Obtaining Consent Collection of specimens from the tested party Packaging of the specimens Shipment of the specimens Receipt of the specimens by the DNA laboratory Testing of specimens within the DNA laboratory Storage of the specimens Cheek Swab Sample Child Support Child support is a court-ordered payment by one parent to the custodial parent of a minor child after a divorce or separation of the parents. Chromosome Chromosomes are long pieces of DNA present in the nucleus of cells of living beings. A human has 46 chromosomes in total with 23 from each parent. Combined Paternity Index The Combined Paternity Index is the product of individual paternity indices at each genetic locus tested in a paternity test. The Combined Paternity Index compares the likelihood that the tested, mother and alleged father produced the child versus the likelihood that the mother and a man selected at random from the population produced the child. It is a measure of the weight of the scientific evidence obtained from the test. Court-ready Paternity Test Commonly referred to as legal test. Custodial Parent A parent who has custody of the child. Custody Custody is a legal term used, most often in a divorce or separation, to describe who will have legal control and responsibility for a minor child. Legal custody may be granted to a single individual or to both parents (called joint or shared custody). Decedent Deoxyribonucleic Acid / DNA A complex, naturally occurring organic chemical that is found in all cells. This compound is responsible for coding the genetic information that is passed on to offspring. Its acronym is “DNA.” Dizygotic Twins Twins that are from two separately fertilized eggs. Also called Fraternal twins Exclusion Is an interpretation of the test results that the tested relationship does not exist. For example, the tested man is not the biological father of the child. First-degree Relative A biological sibling, parent or child of an individual. Fraternal Twins Fraternal twins, also called dizygotic twins, occur when two separate eggs are fertilized. Fraternal twins may be of the same sex or of two different sexes. Although unusual, it is possible that fraternal twins could have different fathers. Frequency Tables These are tables showing the distribution of different alleles for the same gene. These tables are established for each genetic marker tested that showed the frequency of each allele. They are established for each race and the frequencies are then used to calculate paternity indices. Gene A gene is the fundamental unit of heredity. It can be a coding gene (one that determines a specific function or physical characteristic) or it can be non-coding. Each gene is located at a specific position (called locus) on a particular chromosome and variations of the same gene are called alleles. Inclusion In the context of a paternity test, an alleged father is “included” when he cannot be excluded as the biological father of the child. LabCorp’s paternity results provide a specific probability of inclusion. Kinship Kinship is a connection by blood. Legal DNA Test A “legal” test is also called a chain-of-custody or court-ready test. It is completed using DNA samples that have been collected by an unbiased third party with a documented chain of custody. Loci The plural form of locus. Locus The singular term for a specific location on a chromosome. Maternal Related through one’s mother. Maternity Test A test (usually DNA) to determine whether a woman is or is not the biological mother of a child. Matrilneal Relating to descent through the maternal line. Monozygotic twins Also called identical twins, monozygotic twins develop from a single fertilized egg that divides after it is fertilized into two separate embryos. Identical twins have DNA that is exactly the same. They will be the same sex and will look like each other. Non-Custodial Parent The parent who does not have custody of the child in question. Non-standard Sample A non-standard sample is a biological sample used for DNA testing that is not a cheek swab or blood sample. Parentage Test A parentage test is a biological test performed to determine whether a person is the biological parent of a child. Paternal Related through one’s father. Paternity Index For an individual locus, this value is a likelihood ratio comparing the chance the tested, mother and alleged father produced the child to the chance the mother and a man selected at random from the population produced the child. Paternity Test A biological test performed to determine the probability that a certain man is the biological father of a child. Pathology Sample A biological sample taken from a person’s body. Pathology samples are often tissue samples. Patrilineal Relating to descent through the paternal line. Postmortem Postmortem means after death. It can also refer to the examination of a deceased individual to determine the cause of death and will often lead to the collection of several biological samples from the deceased. Power of Exclusion The ability of a genetic marker system to detect a man who has been falsely accused of paternity. Prenatal In the context of paternity testing, a prenatal test is one that is conducted before the birth of a child, using an amniotic fluid sample or piece of the placenta (CVS), from the fetus. Prior Probability (of Paternity) The prior probability can be from 0 to 1. This is a measure of any evidence other than the test. For example, the social evidence surrounding conception. Laboratories routinely use a prior probability of 0.5, which is considered neutral. This means that the weight of the non-test evidence in favor of paternity is equal to the evidence against paternity. Random Man In the context of paternity testing, a random man is a theoretical man, unrelated to the alleged father, to whom the DNA of the alleged father is compared. Second-degree Relative A second-degree relative is a grandparent, grandchild, aunt, uncle, niece, or nephew. Self Collection A cheek swab sample that is collected by the party to be tested. It is usually obtained in a person’s home. Sibship Test A test to determine if two or more individuals are biologically related as either full or half siblings. STR STR is an acronym for Short Tandem Repeat. STRs are short sections of DNA that contain a nucleotide sequence which is repeated a number of times in certain sites on specific chromosomes. The number of repeats differs from individual to individual within the population. These sections of DNA are examined in DNA identity testing. Surrogate Mother A surrogate mother agrees to become pregnant for the purpose of giving birth to a child for others to raise. She can be the child’s genetic mother or could have been implanted with an egg from another woman and man. X-chromosome The sex chromosome associated with female characteristics in mammals. It occurs as a pair in human females and singly in human males. Y-chromosome The sex chromosome that is contributed by a father to his son. Y-chromosomes are only found in males. Paternity DNA testing provides scientific evidence of whether someone is the biological father of another person. It is performed by comparing one’s DNA with the DNA profile of an alleged parent. Whether you need paternity DNA testing for personal or legal reasons, Labcorp offers accurate and convenient DNA paternity testing options. Both our legal and at-home tests use the same DNA testing technology, but have different collection methods. Our legal test follows legal chain-of-custody protocols where the sample is collected at a Labcorp patient service center, so that your sample is valid evidence in a legal setting. Note: At-home paternity testing is not intended for use in a court of law, and is not available in the state of New York. Learn More The male lineage or Y-STR paternal lineage test can confirm a father-son relationship by determining if a child is related to an alleged father’s other male relative, for example, his brother, father, or grandfather. Legal Paternity Test Immigration DNA Test Legal Sibling DNA Test Legal Grandparent Test Legal Avuncular Test Legal Maternity Test At-Home Testing At-Home Paternity Test Kit At-Home Sibling Test Kit At-Home Grandparent Test Kit At-Home Avuncular DNA Kit At-Home Maternity Test Kit For personal peace of mind or for legal purposes, this test is for you. What is Paternity Testing? Paternity testing provides scientific evidence of whether a man can be a child’s biological father. Paternity is determined by comparing the child’s DNA with the DNA profile of the alleged father. LEGAL DNA TESTS When should I purchase a legal paternity DNA test? A paternity or maternity test can be used to establish the parenthood of an individual for a court case such as child support, social security, or child custody. The test can also be used to support placing a parent’s name on a birth certificate. Labcorp places the highest emphasis on following legal chain of custody with your sample, so your sample will be valid evidence in a legal setting. We employ the latest technology to provide the most accurate results for you. Our highly accurate tests exclude, on average, 99.99% of non-fathers. We provide safe, secure, and efficient transportation of your samples. What kind of sample is tested in legal DNA tests? The most common sample type is a buccal swab. This sample is collected using a cotton swab that is gently rubbed on the inside of your cheek. Blood samples are also acceptable. Schedule an Appointment After your order is confirmed and payment is processed, a representative will contact you to schedule the specimen collection or you can select to call us instead. We have more than 1,900 Labcorp-operated facilities in the US, and contract with more than 13,000 locations globally. We will work with you to find a convenient location for sample collection. Our office is open to assist you Monday through Friday, 8am – 8pm EST. AT-HOME TESTS (NON-LEGAL) When should I purchase a non-legal at-home test? You want to determine the paternity or maternity of a child but you are not involved in a court matter, you should purchase a non-legal at-home test. If there is any chance the results might be needed for legal purposes, a legal test should be performed. Labcorp uses the same testing technology for both legal and non-legal testing. Non-legal or at-home tests allow for sample collection at your home and do not follow the legal chain-of-custody protocols needed for a legal test. Our highly accurate tests exclude, on average, 99.99% of non-fathers. What kind of sample is tested with at-home test? A DNA collection kit will be delivered to you. The kit will contain 4 cotton swabs for each person that will be providing their sample for testing. DNA samples can be collected at home by rubbing the cotton swab on the inside of the cheek. If you are questioning the paternity of one or more children, your choice of paternity test will depend on the intended use of the results. For legal matters you can apply to the Family Court or Federal Circuit Court for a court ordered paternity test. If the results are for your peace of mind – you can simply purchase a paternity test kit online. You don’t need to apply to the Family Court or Federal Circuit Court to undertake a paternity test in Australia. Our paternity DNA testing sample collection kits are available Australia wide. This involves the use cheek swabs to collect DNA samples from both the child and alleged father which are then analysed in our Australian lab to determine the likelihood of whether the potential dad is genetically related to the child. View our 2024 DNA test pricing or keep ready to find out more about the paternity testing process. The Steps Involved in Getting A Paternity DNA Test in Australia If you contact our Australian lab to find out about the paternity testing process, the first question we’ll usually ask is what you’re wanting to use the results for. Do you just have some doubts in your head and want to find out so you can put them to rest? If so, our peace-of-mind parentage test is probably the best option for you. Alternatively, do you need the results for any kind of paternity legal purpose, such as changing a birth certificate or using in Family Court proceedings? You’ll need our legally admissible test for this. DNA Testing Father & Child Only? The next questions we’re likely to ask are: how many children will be tested, and will the mother be participating? Identilab strongly recommends including both parents in the paternity test, but the usual response to this question is “I know I’m the mum” or “I know who the mum is”. You can still do a paternity test with the father and child only, but there are a few reasons why collecting a DNA sample from BOTH mum and dad is always a good idea, which you can read about here. Depending on which paternity DNA test option you think works best for your situation, we’ll then outline the steps for you as follows. Peace-of-mind Paternity Tests This test is sometimes called an at home paternity DNA test kit because you will collect the samples yourself. We offer this paternity test Australia wide. We’ll send you everything you need to do this, including detailed instructions, swabs and collection cards for each person being tested, and a reply-paid envelope to send the samples back to us. The collection is very easy to perform and involves swabbing the inside of each participant’s mouth. We offer this paternity test Australia wide. The cost of the peace-of-mind paternity test for one child is \$195. Testing additional children or additional fathers costs a further \$165 each. Click Here To Purchase An At Home Paternity Test How to get a court ordered paternity test Legally Admissible Paternity Test This paternity test is performed according to the Family Law Regulations 1984 (Cth) which outlines the way in which samples must be collected, packaged, and tested, it also must be conducted by a NATA accredited laboratory (like us). We also offer this paternity test Australia wide. We’ll send you everything you need to ensure you comply with these regulations, including detailed instructions, a consent form that needs to be completed by you and witnessed by a Justice of the Peace, and a sample pack that contains everything your chosen medical professional needs to collect your sample from you. You don’t have to attend the same collection appointment as the other participants in the test, and we can send collection kits to multiple addresses across Australia if needed. Depending on where you are located in Australia, Identilab can provide you with a request form for your nearest Pathology Collection Centre (note that any fees charged by the sample collector are not included in the fee that you have paid Identilab for the DNA testing). After they have collected your samples, the sampler will seal them in a tamper-proof bag so they can be sent to us in the provided reply-paid envelope. If you live in the Brisbane area, we can schedule a free appointment for you in our office where we can witness your consent form and collect the sample at the same time. It’s very important that you read the instructions carefully for this paternity test, as failure to comply with the regulations could mean the samples need to be recollected at additional expense to you. The cost of the legally admissible paternity test for one child is \$495. Testing additional children or additional fathers costs a further \$195 each. Click Here To Purchase A Legally Admissible Paternity Test Laboratory Analysis and Release of Paternal DNA Test Results For both peace-of-mind paternity testing and legally admissible paternal tests, we will let you know via email once your samples have been received in the laboratory. Identilab performs the analysis of samples from the two test options in exactly the same way. The only difference between the tests is the collection process. All of our paternity testing is performed in our own laboratory in Brisbane, Australia. We will never send your samples or data to another provider, like some other companies do. We think this is really important to ensure that your personal information is protected and that you receive the most accurate and reliable results possible. Your paternity test results will be sent to you via email within 5 business days of Identilab receiving all samples for your case, providing the samples are of good quality and additional testing is not required. On occasion, some extra processing is needed to get a sample to work properly. This could be due to a sample being of poor quality, or it could be due to an analysis issue that needs to be confirmed. If this is the case, there will be a slight delay to the release of your results and you may not receive them within the 5 business day timeframe. Rarely, a sample may not work at all or may not give us enough information to perform our comparisons. If this happens, we will let you know that the sample needs to be recollected and advise you of the cost to perform this retesting. The results of the paternity testing will be sent to all participants who are aged 18 years and over, and to the guardian of a minor child/incapacitated adult who has signed the consent on their behalf. Along with the report, you’ll receive an information sheet to help you interpret what the results mean. Identilab will destroy your samples one month after providing you with the results. It doesn’t matter whether you’re located in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth Townsville, Toowoomba, Cairns – or anywhere else in Australia – we can assist with all your paternity testing requirements. Please call us on 1300 114 294 or email us at [email protected] if you need help deciding which test is best for your situation. We would be happy to answer any questions you have. There are many potential reasons why you might want to get a DNA paternity test – but before you do, it’s worth considering whether these DNA tests are accurate and if they might offer a good solution for your needs overall. So, without further ado, let’s consider whether a paternity test is reliable, and if so, how these tests work to determine a child’s parentage overall. If you would like to make an appointment to have a paternity test carried out you can book online with one of our specialists here at Ultrasound Plus, having provided paternity tests for several years we will take good care of you throughout the process. To find out more, get in touch with one of our team members today. Paternity DNA tests are a relatively straightforward procedure to understand and directly compare the DNA of a child with the parent. Based on statistical analysis and inference of the DNA, the test can compare the child’s DNA against the DNA of the (potential) father, thereby confirming or denying whether the parentage is likely accurate for the child. This process is possible since every child receives 50% of their DNA from either parent at conception. Similarly, other DNA tests, such as testing whether two individuals might be siblings or half-siblings, work on similar principles, with full siblings sharing (statistically speaking) 50% of their genetics on average. In an ideal world, DNA should also be taken from the child’s mother to increase the ease and accuracy of the procedure. Still, this isn’t wholly a necessity for the test to be completed accurately or quickly, either if the child has requested a paternity request. Still, their mother is unwilling or otherwise unable to get involved with the test. Professional clinics can still perform the paternity test with a DNA sample from just the child and the father (or presumed father). We should point out that a paternity DNA test should only be carried out with the parties’ authorisation. As such, if you were concerned that your partner’s child wasn’t yours, but either the child (or their mother, in cases where the child is too young to be responsible for themselves) were unwilling, you must not attempt to force them to get involved. Along similar lines, you should also never forcibly take a DNA sample from them without their consent. There are numerous reasons why you might want to get a paternity test done, and understanding these may help you decide whether these tests might be a suitable approach to consider for your needs. Fortunately, we have briefly summarised a few of the most notable reasons why couples or families might undertake paternity tests as follows to help you make the right choice for your own needs. In some cases, a paternity DNA test may be required for legal purposes (for example, for legal guardianship of a child). If this is required in your case, you will need to ensure that the test is carried out under supervision at an approved medical facility to be accurate and reliable; otherwise, there is no proof for the courts that the provided DNA samples are from the correct DNA donors. Certain genetic health conditions can be passed down from father to child; with this in mind, if the father is aware of a genetic condition within his family or his DNA, a paternity test may help check the child’s chances of carrying this condition. In turn, this may help ensure that the child is given proper care and treatment for the genetic disease at an earlier stage, which may slow the condition’s progression and ensure the child remains healthy and lives a fulfilling life. Unfortunately, paternity tests cannot provide complete accuracy since they are based on statistical analysis of the likelihood of parentage. What’s more, in the case of identical siblings sharing the same genetics, paternity tests will likely struggle to determine which individual is the father of a child. However, overall, paternity DNA tests can provide a massively impressive 99.9% accuracy if the process is carried out accurately. If you have considered getting a paternity test, there are numerous potential factors you may want to consider. However, if there is doubt about the father of a child, for whatever reason that might be, a paternity test might be a valuable option to consider. Offering almost 100% accuracy, they are certainly one of the most reliable forms of testing; so, if you’d like to find out more about the potential, the Ultrasound clinic is here to help.