AT 2009-009 Attachment 1

If you have questions about paternity, genetic or blood testing, call the Department of Human Services Office of Child Support at:

1-866-540-0008 or
1-866-661-0005

Office of Child Support
State of Michigan
Department of Human Services

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Quantity: 0
Cost: 0
Authority: DHS Director
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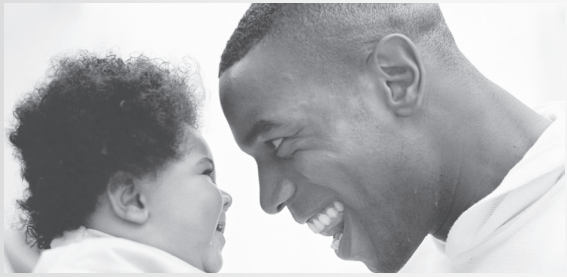
Previous edition may be used.
<ONLINE VERSION>

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DNA - Paternity Testing

STATE OF MICHIGAN
Department of Human Services



What is Paternity or Parentage Testing?

Paternity testing is a series of genetic tests used to indicate the likelihood that a man is, or is not, the biological father of a child. The most common method used today is DNA testing.

What is DNA?

DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) contains hereditary information required for the development of every living thing on earth. It forms genes, which are the hereditary unit located on a chromosome. Each person has 46 chromosomes. Twenty-three are contributed from each parent to form the 46 chromosomes that become their child.

Are the tests accurate?

The genetic test results from a DNA test are used in courts throughout the U.S. and abroad and are greater than 99.9 percent accurate in determining that a man is not the father. Per Michigan Compiled Law 722.716, paternity is presumed if the DNA test results performed by a qualified person are 99 percent or higher.

Will drug use, illness or disease affect the accuracy of a DNA test result?

No. DNA testing is not affected.

Are there any age requirements for the parents or the child for a DNA test? Can minor parents have a DNA test done?

The parent(s) and the child can have a DNA test done at any age and age does not affect the DNA results.

Do all the individuals have to be present at the same location and time for specimen collection?

No. Specimens can be collected at different times and at different locations. Photos and fingerprints are taken in all cases where testing is done separately to assist with final identification. Testing will start when all samples arrive at the laboratory.

How long does it take to report the test results?

Most reports are issued within two weeks from the date when the samples are received at the laboratory.

Will DNA testing hurt?

No. DNA testing is obtained by rubbing a cotton tipped swab (buccal swab) on the inside of the cheek. DNA can also be extracted from blood and other tissues.

What is the cost of genetic testing?

If you receive Medicaid, Family Independence Program or Food Assistance Program benefits or are a child support customer, the state will arrange genetic testing at the contract rate of approximately $111 per case; that includes a mother, child and alleged father. There is also a $5 sample collection fee per person. A court will decide who pays for the genetic testing and fees. If you have questions about paternity, genetic, or blood testing, call a Department of Human Services child support specialist at 1-866-540-0008 or 1-866-661-0005.

The cost for private DNA testing can be much higher.

What is the genetic principle behind DNA testing?

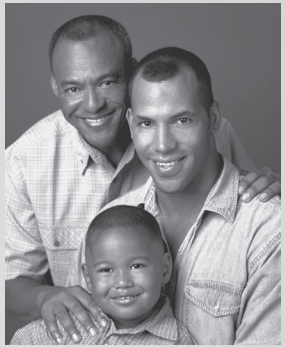
The genetic markers (or loci) are identified in the mother, alleged father and child. The mother contributes half of the child's genetic material. The father must contribute the other half of the child's DNA. The laboratory performs a series of tests.

The tests compare many different and complex details of the child's sample with similar details in the mother's and alleged father's samples. The laboratory identifies all of the shared markers between the child and the mother. The child's marker(s) that are not shared with the mother must come from the biological father.

What does it mean when a man is "not-excluded" as the father?

In each performed test, the man has the necessary marker found in the child that was not inherited from the mother. This statement means that there is a 99 percent or greater probability that the man is the biological father of the child.

What does it mean when a man is "excluded" as the father?



Excluded means the man did not possess three or more obligatory paternal genes of the child; therefore he is not the biological father.

Where are samples collected?

Blood draws and buccal swab collections can be scheduled at a testing laboratory or arranged at a location near you.

Can paternity testing be done without both parents?

Yes. If either parent is deceased, paternity testing can be done through a blood or tissue sample from the coroner's office or through the testing of appropriate family members.

Are records confidential and secure at the laboratory?

All records and reports are confidential and maintained in a secured building with coded entry to all exterior doors.

Is the laboratory accredited by any national organization?

Michigan contracts with a laboratory that is accredited by the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB). The AABB is an association of blood banks, transfusion and transplantation services. In addition to other services, AABB administers the Parentage Testing Accreditation Program that has established standards for parentage testing.