

# Frequently Asked Questions



Ormond Quay Paternity Services

## What is DNA?

Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is a chemical substance found in the nucleus of cells. Its function is to make copies of itself so that dividing cells can pass on the same information. DNA stores information that is needed for passing down faithfully our genetic attributes from one generation to the next, hence it is also known as our genetic blueprint. Half of each person's DNA information comes from their mother and the other half from their father.

## What does DNA test entail?

The process is very simple. It will involve the following:

- collecting cheek cells from the mouth (of each individual to be tested) using cotton swabs;
- sending the samples back to our laboratory for processing;
- generating and sending a report after the test is completed

## Does taking a sample hurt?

No, the sample is taken by a non-invasive method. The cotton swab provided is rubbed over the inside of the cheek in the mouth, to remove some cells containing DNA.

## How accurate is the test?

A DNA test is the most accurate genetic identification test available. However care must be taken not to contaminate the samples.

## Who carries out the test?

Our team of highly qualified scientists carry out these tests.

## How does a standard paternity DNA test work?

For a standard paternity test, samples taken from child, mother and father are processed in our laboratory. DNA from each individual's sample is extracted. Specific regions of the DNA are copied using the Polymerase Chain Reaction technique (PCR). The product of the PCR is separated and detected to obtain a DNA profile (half a person's DNA comes from their mother and the other half from their father). The test looks out for similarity between the DNA profiles of the child, mother and father.

By comparing the DNA profiles of the child with the mother, it is possible to establish the common factors between them. The child's factors not found in the mother's profile must therefore come from the biological father. An alleged father is excluded as the biological father if factors found on his DNA profile are not shared with the child's. However if the alleged father's profile shares common factors with that of the child's then he is not excluded as the true biological father. A statistical analysis is then carried out to calculate the probability of paternity.

## What can you tell from the test?

For a standard paternity test, the test will either exclude someone as the biological father or it will include them as the true biological father and a statistical analysis will be provided to support this claim if the alleged father is included. For a standard sibling test, the test will

Indicate whether or not the siblings are half or full siblings and a statistical analysis will be provided to show the probability of the relationship. For other family relationship testing, the relationship will be indicated in a similar way.

## Why do you need to know the ethnic group?

The random match probability of the genetic markers used for the test varies among different ethnic groups. Therefore to calculate the probability of paternity or family relationship accurately it is important to know the ethnic group of the individuals being tested.

## How long will the results take?

Once we receive your samples in our laboratory, we will process them as quickly as possible. For a standard paternity test you should expect to receive your results within approximately five working days. An express paternity service takes approximately two working days from receipt of the samples. A standard sibling test takes approximately two to four weeks. Other tests, such as those involving forensic samples may take longer. An express service is not usually available for sibling and kinship testing.

## Who will receive the results?

The persons whom are being tested. No one else will be given the results without prior approval of those tested. If a further report is required, the consent of everyone tested is required and a fee will be charged for each additional report.

## Who will have access to the results?

Only authorised staff of the Company.

## What happens to the DNA once the test is carried out?

The extracted DNA is destroyed by incineration one month after the report is sent out.

## What happens if I want to take my results to court?

You will require a court-admissible test. Contact us or visit our website for details.



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**Customer Service Call:**

**(01) 8748699 or Email [info@oqps.ie](mailto:info@oqps.ie)**