



# DNA relationship testing

For legal purposes



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A person's DNA is inherited equally from each parent and is a powerful means of identification. DNA testing is a scientific way of confirming specific biological relationships between different people. For example, testing between parents and children, brothers and sisters, uncles and nephews, etc.

## DNA relationship testing is used to determine whether people are biologically related

For example:

- ▶ **Paternity testing** – to determine the biological father of a child.
- ▶ **Maternity testing** – to determine the biological mother of a child.
- ▶ **Sibling testing** – to establish the likelihood of a full sibling or half-sibling relationship.
- ▶ **Grandparent testing** – to establish the likelihood of a grandparent-to-grandchild relationship.
- ▶ **Aunt or Uncle to Niece or Nephew testing** – to determine the likelihood of this relationship.
- ▶ **Y chromosome testing** – to establish if males share a common Y chromosome and therefore share a common paternal lineage.

## What is DNA testing for legal purposes?

DNA testing for legal purposes involves a strict process that is governed by both federal and state laws and regulations. These regulations include verification of the identity and consent of all people being tested, sample collection by a qualified professional, transport via a 'Chain-of-Custody' and testing by an accredited laboratory.

In addition to these regulations, you may be required to have testing that meets the requirements of the Family Law Act 1975. This is a standard of legal DNA paternity or maternity testing that is required by courts and government departments (e.g. Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages, Child Support). To fulfil these requirements the following criteria must be met:

- ▶ The test is for maternity or paternity only.
- ▶ We must test the mother, alleged father and the child, where each of them consent.
- ▶ If the child is under the age of 18, the mother or legally appointed carer must consent on behalf of the child (unless there are court orders for DNA testing or court orders that have removed the child from the care of the mother).

## What should I consider prior to DNA testing?

The result of DNA testing may have a significant impact on the people being tested. This impact may be medical, psychological, financial or social. Other people who have not been tested may also be affected. We recommend that you consider these matters carefully and discuss them with a trusted healthcare professional, such as your GP. We can also provide you with details of counselling services, available upon request.

## What does legal DNA testing cost?

Costs vary depending on how many people and relationships are being tested. Unlike some other laboratories, our fees are inclusive of:

- ▶ Booking and collection at your nominated sample collection centre
- ▶ Specimen transport from collection to testing laboratory
- ▶ Laboratory testing and analysis
- ▶ Reporting of your case by a NATA-certified reporter
- ▶ Express Post of your report

For a current schedule of prices, please see our website [www.dnalabs.com.au](http://www.dnalabs.com.au), or call us on 1300 663 244.

## Deceased estate testing

DNALabs can test for parentage when one parent is unavailable to be tested (e.g. deceased) using alternative samples, such as biopsy material from operations performed in the past or verified post-mortem samples. For further information, please contact us on 1300 663 244.

## Results

Upon receipt of everyone's samples in the laboratory, results can be issued as soon as five working days for maternity and paternity cases, and 10 working days for other relationship tests. Extra testing may be required for complex cases.

## How do I proceed with DNA relationship testing for legal purposes?

- 1 Complete an application form. The application forms can be downloaded from our website [www.dnalabs.com.au](http://www.dnalabs.com.au) or you can call us on 1300 663 244 and we can email or post you an application form.
- 2 Return your application form along with your payment to DNALabs. Your case is established with our laboratory once we receive your completed application form and payment.
- 3 A Booking Information Pack is sent to each person being tested so they can attend a collection centre to have their sample collected.
- 4 DNA sample collection of all parties is completed and all samples are transported to our laboratory for testing.
- 5 Results are issued 5-10 working days from receipt of all samples in our laboratory.

### Any further questions?

Please call us on 1300 663 244 or visit the frequently asked questions on our website, [www.dnalabs.com.au/order-your-test/faq](http://www.dnalabs.com.au/order-your-test/faq)

## Why choose DNALabs for your DNA testing?

We are an Australian laboratory, with Australian scientists, testing to Australian standards.

### Experience

DNALabs was established in 1993, and has become a trusted name in Australia for quality DNA testing services. We are part of Sonic Genetics, a group of services within Sonic Healthcare (Australia's largest provider of medical diagnostics services). Our laboratories are medically led, together with teams of highly qualified scientists and pathologists. For more than two decades we have tested thousands of DNA samples, using the latest technology and highest quality control. We have established a reputation for excellence in service delivery and reliability.

### Accreditation

DNALabs is accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) for compliance with ISO/IEC 17025 – Testing. Our accreditation number is 14982.



### Ease of access

DNALabs has an extensive network of collection facilities operated by Sonic Healthcare throughout Australia. Please refer to [www.dnalabs.com.au](http://www.dnalabs.com.au) to find a collection centre nearest to you.

### Privacy and confidentiality

DNALabs is committed to the protection of your privacy and confidential information. You can review our privacy policy at [www.dnalabs.com.au/privacy-policy](http://www.dnalabs.com.au/privacy-policy).



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Printed August 2018

SHG-MKT-0087-00.1