



DNA testing

A Post Adoption Support Service Information Sheet

A number of organisations provide DNA testing for different situations and for varied fees. Some will only provide testing for legal reasons (Family Law Court); others will only provide paternity testing. Some require proof of identity and others send kits which may be ordered over the telephone or internet. The information provided below is a guide to some of the services we are aware of. However, as information changes and new services develop, please take responsibility for investigating the alternatives, considering the risks if using kits ordered over the phone or internet, and obtaining updated information and advice before proceeding.

Things you might like to consider prior to proceeding with testing:

What might the repercussions be for you and the other party if the test is positive or negative?

- Emotionally: if the relationship is proved different to assumptions prior to the test?
- Financially: if positive, is the other person expecting financial support? (This is not a legal obligation)
- Socially: if it is positive are you anticipating public recognition of this relationship?
- Are there any privacy considerations which will be impacted on by pursuing testing?

If there are difficulties around these situations, Post Adoption Support Services can offer support and counseling for either party.

Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science (IMVS)

Address: Frome Road, Adelaide, Phone: (08) 8222 3891 or free call 1800 633 838

- IMVS carry out paternity testing for the Family Court and do personal testing for 'peace of mind' reasons (which can not be used in a court of law). Consent is required from all parties.
- IMVS is unable to do testing for sibling relationships or when one party is overseas.
- A legal affidavit is required to confirm the parties' identities, a Justice of the Peace is to be present, and 2 passport photos are taken for identification purposes.
- If you attend the Frome Road clinic, then this will all be organized for you by IMVS.
- If one of the parties is from interstate, then it will be necessary to organize your own Justice of the Peace and photographs.
- It is preferred that the mother, father and child all participate in testing for accuracy. However, if only one parent chooses to participate, the testing can still be done but may not be as conclusive.

Process:

DNA testing is done by taking 2 mouth swabs from each party.

Cost:

If the DNA testing is being done for 'peace of mind' and all parties are in South Australia, the cost is \$770. If one or more of the parties are interstate the cost is \$797.50, and if extra children or adults are requesting testing the cost is an extra \$176 per person.

Reliability:

- If the test excludes biological relationship to a father, this is considered to be 100% accurate
- If the test does not exclude biological relationship of the father this can be considered 99.9% accurate

Genetic Technologies

Address: Victoria, Australia, Phone: (03) 9415 7688 or 1800 822 999

- Genetic Technologies carry out paternity/maternity and sibling testing for the Family Court, Immigration and for personal 'peace of mind' reasons.
- As with IMVS, passport photos and the witness of a Justice of the Peace is needed. As they are based in Victoria, South Australians would go to IMVS in Adelaide for the specimen to be taken.
- If the person lives in a rural area, a General Practitioner can take the specimen.
- If a party is overseas they are able to send out a testing kit to the Australian party who can forward the kit to the overseas person.

Process:

DNA testing is done by taking 2 mouth swabs from each party. If one person is overseas, a blood sample by fingerprick is often also taken in case the mouth swab is contaminated or damaged in transit.

Cost:

- For legal testing (ie for Family Court) with all parties being in Australia, the cost is \$825
- 'Peace of Mind' maternity/paternity testing with all parties being in Australia, the cost is \$550
- For 'Peace of Mind' testing for sibling relationship, the cost for each sibling/party is \$495.
- For overseas testing for immigration purposes (i.e. legally required) there is an additional cost of \$500 to cover couriering a kit to the panel doctor/embassy. It is necessary for the testing to be appropriately supervised by the Embassy or delegated panel doctor. There will be the additional fee for the doctor in the overseas country to take the sample and this varies in each country, but is generally around \$US20.

Reliability:

Sibling testing isn't as definitive as paternity testing. To get the most reliable results it is preferable to get a sample from the 'common parent' as well as from the presumed siblings. However, if this isn't possible, the testing can still be done but may be inconclusive. This will vary depending on the individual make up and also gender.

Gribbles

Adelaide Australia, Phone: 1300 139 162

- Gribbles only do paternity testing for the Family Court and do not carry out DNA testing for 'peace of mind' or personal interest reasons.

Definitions:

Paternity testing = testing of the genetic relationship of father to child

Maternity testing = testing of the genetic relationship of mother to child

Sibling testing = of one full or half sibling to another