

CLIENT TECHNICAL INFORMATION

DNA Testing

CONTENTS

1. ABOUT LEXTOX.....3

2. DNA RESULTS DELIVERY TIME3

3. LABORATORY ACCREDITATIONS3

4. DNA RELATIONSHIP TESTING3

4.1 PATERNITY TESTING3

4.2 TESTED PARTIES4

4.3 PEACE OF MIND.....4

4.4 LEGAL DNA TEST.....4

4.5 MATERNITY TESTING.....4

4.6 PRENATAL TESTING5

4.7 SIBLINGSHIP TEST5

4.8 GRANDPARENTAGE TEST.....5

4.9 AVUNCULAR TEST (AUNT/UNCLE).....6

4.10 CHAIN OF CUSTODY PROCEDURES.....6

5. UK WIDE SAMPLE COLLECTIONS6

5.1 REQUIREMENTS FOR SAMPLE COLLECTIONS.....6

5.2 CANCELLATION.....7

5.3 REARRANGING THE SAMPLE COLLECTION.....7

5.4 DONOR FAILURE TO ATTEND.....7

6. SAMPLE COLLECTION BY NON-LEXTOX COLLECTORS.....7

6.1 NOTIFICATION7

6.2 SAMPLE COLLECTION PROCEDURE7

6.3 RETURNING THE SAMPLE COLLECTION KIT TO THE LABORATORY7

6.4 ALTERNATIVE SAMPLE COLLECTIONS8

7. SPLIT INVOICING8

7.1 QUOTATION.....8

7.2 AUTHORISATION TO PROCEED8

7.3 INVOICING.....8

7.4 ADDITIONAL CHARGES.....8

7.5 ANALYSIS REQUIREMENTS.....8

7.6 TEST RESULTS8

8. CONTACT DETAILS9

.....1

1. ABOUT LEXTOX

Thank you for instructing or considering Lextox for your DNA testing needs.

Established in 2011 by experts from within the UK hair testing industry, at Lextox our mission then remains the same now – to provide the most responsive, client oriented service and reliable results.

Fully focussed on family law, we provide the complete range of testing services for child care proceedings including **hair drug and alcohol**, **blood alcohol**, **SCRAM Continuous Alcohol** and **DNA** testing.

ISO 17025 UKAS Accredited Testing Laboratory (No. 7516), we follow strict quality assurance procedures to deliver legally defensible Analysis Results and Expert Reports which are accepted in every UK family court.

Today we are trusted by more than 14,000 family law solicitors and local authorities to deliver a responsive service and reliable results.

Lextox is a member of the SYNLAB Group, the leading medical diagnostic services provider in Europe.

For more information on Lextox, [please visit our website](#).

2. DNA RESULTS DELIVERY TIME

The DNA Test Report will usually be issued in 3 working days of receiving the sample into the laboratory. Analysis results for prenatal DNA tests will be provided in 8 working days or less.

We recommend ensuring the sample reaches the laboratory at least 5 to 10 working days before you need the results.

3. LABORATORY ACCREDITATIONS

Lextox Drug and Alcohol Testing use laboratories that hold ISO 17025 accreditation and are Ministry of Justice accredited to undertake parentage tests directed by the courts in England and Wales under section 20 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969.

4. DNA RELATIONSHIP TESTING

DNA relationship testing in partnership with a Ministry of Justice accredited laboratory.

4.1 PATERNITY TESTING

A DNA paternity test is used to resolve any questions or doubts relating to the paternity of a child. A paternity test works by comparing the DNA profile of a child with the DNA profiles of his or her mother and alleged father. If the child's mother is unavailable for testing, we can often perform a

motherless paternity test. (Please see the “Tested Parties” section below for more information about this testing option.) Because a child inherits half of his or her genetic makeup from each biological parent, our expert DNA analysts can look for patterns of inheritance among the individuals’ DNA profiles and conclusively determine whether the alleged father is the biological father of the child.

4.2 TESTED PARTIES

A standard paternity test involves the child, the mother and the alleged father. By contributing a DNA sample, the mother assists the testing process. During the analysis, our expert DNA staff can readily identify and eliminate her contribution to the child’s genetic profile and focus on the alleged father’s contribution.

When necessary, we can often perform a paternity test without the mother. This is known as a motherless paternity test. Both paternity and motherless paternity tests provide accurate, conclusive results. A motherless test requires additional testing and statistical analysis, however we provide these services at no additional charge.

We can also test additional children or alleged fathers when needed. For associated fees please contact us to discuss.

4.3 PEACE OF MIND

Peace of mind paternity testing, also called private or in-home paternity testing, is characterised by the self-collection process. We send sample collection kits to the tested parties, and they perform their own buccal swabbing to collect their DNA samples. Because of this collection method, private paternity testing produces results are not legally defensible. Included with the kit are consent forms that must be signed and returned with the samples.

4.4 LEGAL DNA TEST

Many of our clients use their legal paternity test results to settle family law matters (such as child care proceedings, child custody and visitation disputes and adoption), resolve inheritance disputes, and satisfy immigration requirements.

Our legal paternity testing service follows a strict chain of custody; this is what makes our test results legally defensible in courts of law. The chain of custody is a documentation process that shows:

- / The samples were collected by a neutral third party, such as a doctor, a nurse, or a Lextox Sample Collector.
- / The tested parties were positively identified at their sample collection appointment(s).
- / The samples were protected with tamper proof tape at the collection site and were securely packaged for shipping to the laboratory. Once received by the laboratory, they were thoroughly inspected for tampering.

4.5 MATERNITY TESTING

Maternity testing can conclusively determine whether a woman is the biological mother of a child. DNA maternity tests may be useful for individuals who...

- / Need to provide additional proof of their mother-child relationship to support their immigration applications.
- / Have been separated by adoption and reunited years later, and would like to confirm that they are

biologically related as mother and child.

/ Need to verify whether the proper embryo was implanted into a mother's uterus during in vitro fertilisation.

/ Fear that babies have mistakenly been switched in a hospital nursery and need to place the appropriate infant with the appropriate mother.

Like a paternity test, a maternity test works by comparing the DNA profiles of a child; an alleged mother; and, when available, the child's father. (A fatherless maternity test can be performed when the child's father is not available for testing.) The genetic profiles of a biologically related mother and child will show predictable patterns of DNA inheritance.

4.6 PRENATAL TESTING

Our prenatal DNA test is an accurate and non-invasive way to determine paternity prior to a child's birth. A mouth swab is required from the alleged father and a blood sample is required from the arm of the biological mother. Both of these samples will be collected by our professionally trained Sample Collectors. After profiling the mother and foetus, we are able to compare the markers against the alleged fathers' DNA. The test analyses free-floating foetal DNA from the mother's plasma and compares it to the mother's DNA profile. Once the foetus' profile is determined, it is then compared to the alleged father to determine paternity. The mother must be at least 8 weeks pregnant as per confirmation from a medical professional and testing is unable to be undertaken on multiple pregnancies (i.e. twins and triplets).

Analysis results for prenatal DNA tests will be provided in 8 working days or less.

4.7 SIBLINGSHIP TEST

Siblingship testing can help two alleged siblings verify whether they are siblings. A sibling DNA test is often performed when an alleged father is unavailable for a paternity test and his possible children would like to know if they have the same father.

A half siblingship test can be performed when two alleged siblings know they have different mothers but would like to know if they have the same biological father. Or they know they have different fathers and wish to establish if they have the same mother. Siblingship tests require complex DNA analysis. For this reason, we encourage the alleged siblings' mother(s) to participate in the testing whenever possible. The mother's participation helps us eliminate the maternal contribution to the children's DNA profiles. This, in turn, helps us focus our analysis on whether the alleged siblings' remaining DNA could have come from the same biological father.

Cases that involve in-direct relationship testing such as siblingship (full-siblingship and half-siblingship) tests will only provide a statistical likelihood that gives evidence to support the tested relationship. A test of this nature will not directly exclude the relationship. The test merely gives the odds of the relationship based on the purported relationship and the systems tested.

4.8 GRANDPARENTAGE TEST

A grandparent DNA test can determine whether a child is biologically related to the alleged grandparents. A grandparentage test is based on the fact that a child inherits half of his or her genetic profile from each biological parent. When one of a child's parents is unavailable for testing, we can look to the grandparents to determine whether they contributed DNA to the child's genetic profile.

4.9 AVUNCULAR TEST (AUNT/UNCLE)

A legal aunt-uncle DNA test is taken to determine if a child is the biological niece or nephew of the alleged aunt or uncle. The avuncular test is a viable option when the alleged father or mother is unavailable for testing and the only available relative is a brother or sister of the alleged father or mother. Cases that involve in-direct relationship testing including Avuncular, single Grandparentage and Siblingship (full– siblingship and half–siblingship) tests will only provide a statistical likelihood that gives evidence to support the tested relationship. A test of this nature will not directly exclude the relationship. The test merely gives the odds of the relationship based on the purported relationship and the systems tested.

4.10 CHAIN OF CUSTODY PROCEDURES

We follow strict chain of custody documentation processes for every DNA test. This process helps ensure that the test results will be legally defensible in courts and other government departments, should clients ever need their results for legal purposes (such as obtaining child support).

The chain of custody process satisfies legal requirements by proving the following:

- / The DNA samples were collected by a neutral third party - someone who has no personal interest in the outcome of the test. For many of our clients, our Lextox Collector collects the samples at a professional location such as a solicitor's office. Clients may also visit their GP or nurse who can collect the samples.
- / The tested parties were positively identified at the time of sample collection. To be positively identified, a tested individual must present a government-issued photo ID.
- / The collected DNA samples were made tamper resistant. The samples are tamper-taped at the collection site and are posted to the laboratory in secure packaging. Upon arrival at the laboratory, the samples are carefully inspected for any evidence of tampering.

5. UK WIDE SAMPLE COLLECTIONS

We provide a responsive sample collection service via our UK network of qualified healthcare professionals.

Buccal swabbing is the primary method of DNA sample collection. It is a painless, quick, and simple technique. A buccal swab is similar to a cotton wool bud, but it is made of a special material that provides a consistent surface for DNA sample collection and DNA extraction. In the sample collection process, buccal swabs are rubbed against the inside of a person's cheeks. The rubbing action gathers loose cheek cells from the mouth, and these cells contain the DNA we use for the genetic tests.

We follow strict chain of custody documentation processes to help ensure that the test results will be legally defensible in courts of law and other government departments if needed. An important component of the chain of custody process is how the buccal swab samples are collected. They must be collected by a neutral third party, such as a Lextox Collector, doctor or nurse. In addition, all tested parties must be positively identified at their sample collection appointments.

5.1 REQUIREMENTS FOR SAMPLE COLLECTIONS

We can usually attend sample collections within 48 hours of being notified or even quicker if the collection is urgent.

Our Lextox Sample Collectors are qualified phlebotomists and will ensure that the DNA sample is taken correctly. They will bring all the necessary equipment with them to the collection appointment.

We recommend you ask your client to read our Guide to Sample Collections prior to attending the sample collection appointment, this can be found [here](#).

5.2 CANCELLATION

Should you need to cancel the sample collection appointment, please provide us with 24 hours' notice. Any sample collection that is cancelled within 24 hours of the collection appointment will be charged at the full cost of the sample collection.

5.3 REARRANGING THE SAMPLE COLLECTION

If you would like to rearrange the sample collection, please inform us at your earliest convenience. Any sample collection that is rearranged the same day as the allocated sample collection time may be charged at the full quoted cost.

5.4 DONOR FAILURE TO ATTEND

If the donor fails to attend the allocated sample collection appointment the full quoted cost of the sample collection will be charged.

In the event that the donor is not present for the allocated sample collection appointment, our sample collectors reserve the right to wait for 15 minutes from the start time of the appointment before leaving. This is to ensure that our sample collectors have sufficient time to meet their next scheduled appointment.

6. SAMPLE COLLECTION BY NON-LEXTOX COLLECTORS

Sample collection kits can be dispatched to a GP surgery for the GP or medical professional to collect the samples.

The sample collection kit will be sent to the GP surgery detailed on the DNA Relationship Testing Quotation Request.

6.1 NOTIFICATION

Please ensure that the GP surgery is informed that the sample collection kit will be dispatched to them for them to collect the sample.

6.2 SAMPLE COLLECTION PROCEDURE

Full instructions on how to collect the sample will be provided within the sample collection kit. We are available to provide assistance to the GP during sample collection if required.

6.3 RETURNING THE SAMPLE COLLECTION KIT TO THE LABORATORY

If the sample collection kit is not required, please ensure that the kit is returned to us unused. Any sample collection kit that is not returned to us or not used and returned in an unusable condition will incur a charge.

6.4 ALTERNATIVE SAMPLE COLLECTIONS

Our healthcare collection professionals are able to attend DNA sample collections in a professional setting within 48 hours' notice and often less. In certain circumstances we can provide collections at the Donor's place of residence, providing we have suitable professional witnesses present.

Using a trained healthcare professional ensures correct sample collection and can reduce delays which may arise from an incorrect collection.

7. SPLIT INVOICING

Split invoicing free of charge for your convenience where costs are to be shared between the respective parties.

7.1 QUOTATION

The quotation reflects the cost of the services being split between each party based on the % share that has been agreed to be paid by each party. Your quote details the % share that you are taking responsibility for.

7.2 AUTHORISATION TO PROCEED

Before we can proceed with the analysis each party is required to accept their quotation detailing their share of the cost of the sample analysis.

7.3 INVOICING

Once the analysis has been completed each party will be invoiced for their respective share. On occasion we may request payment in advance from one or more parties such as private individuals before the sample analysis can proceed.

7.4 ADDITIONAL CHARGES

Any additional charges such as (and not limited to) collection fees in respect of late cancellation of collection appointments, failure to attend the sample collection appointment by the donor, or failure of the GP in returning the unused sample pack to us will be split between each party in the % share they are responsible for.

7.5 ANALYSIS REQUIREMENTS

We take direction from the instructing party in relation to the analysis requirements. Amendments to the requested sample analysis must also come from the instructing party in writing. If the sample analysis requirements change, and thus the cost for the analysis changes, each party will receive a revised quotation detailing the amended cost.

7.6 TEST RESULTS

The results and the progress of the analysis will only be discussed with the party that has been designated to receive the results and has been detailed in the results address section of the Quotation Request form. The results will be issued to the results addressee and it is the responsibility of the recipient to distribute the results to other parties. We will only forward on results to other parties after receiving written instruction and authorisation to do so from the instructing party.

8. CONTACT DETAILS

Call us on 029 2048 4141

Email us at experts@lextox.co.uk

Information on the other services we offer, including hair drug and alcohol, blood alcohol and SCRAM Continuous Alcohol testing, can be found on our website www.lextox.co.uk.



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