

Services

When using any company for DNA testing make sure that the company is approved by an appropriate authority.

Barringtons Laboratories - Limerick

Tel: (061) 490550

E-mail: pam.colbert@barringtonshospital.com

Referral: Self Referral / GP / Solicitor **Type of Test:** Blood. Heel prick from a baby. Finger prick from an adult. Off-site kit can be sent to a nominated GP. **Age of Child:** 6 weeks or older or at discretion of GP **Approved:** South African National Accreditation Scheme. **Cost:** €330. €175 for additional alleged fathers to be tested.

Blackrock Clinic - Co. Dublin

Tel: (01) 2064357

E-mail: creabyn@blackrock-clinic.com
www.blackrock-clinic.com

Referral: Self Referral / GP / Solicitor **Type of Test:** Swab **Age of Child:** 2 weeks or older **Approved:** UK's Lord Chancellor's Office **Cost:** €630. €150 for additional alleged fathers to be tested.

Dr. Stephen Murphy - Dublin 18

Tel: (01) 2853666

E-mail: info@paternity.ie
www.paternity.ie

Referral: Self Referral / GP / Solicitor / Courts **Type of Test:** Blood or Swab **Age of Child:** Any age after birth **Approved:** UKAS and ISO 17025 **Cost:** €600. €200 for additional alleged fathers to be tested.

DNA Testing Limited - Dublin 8

Tel: (01) 6770766

E-mail: philipgoconnell@eircom.net
www.irishdnatest.com

Referral: Self Referral / GP / Courts / Solicitors / HSE Social Workers **Type of test:** Blood or Swab **Age of child:** Any age **Approved:** UK's Lord Chancellor's Office **Cost:** €600.

Chemical Analysis Lab - Sandycove, Co. Dublin

Tel: (01) 2360755,

E-mail: jbloom@iol.ie
www.cal.ie

Referral: Self Referral / GP / Solicitor **Type of Test:** Swab. **Age of Child:** 2 weeks **Approved:** UKAS and ISO 17025 **Cost:** €400, €750 if results required for court procedure. €150 for additional alleged fathers.

DNA Ireland - Cork

Tel: (021) 4965809

Contact: Lucy Hooper

E-mail: info@dnaireland.ie
www.dnaireland.ie

Referral: Self referral / GP / Solicitor / Courts **Type of test:** Blood or Swab **Age of child:** Any age **Approved:** US Laboratory with ISO 17025, CAP and ABB accreditations. **Cost:** €600 Blood, €600 Swab - both court approved. €375 swab test, where not required for legal purposes (pre and post test counselling available).

Prof. Alan Dobson

Microbiology Dept., University College Cork

Tel: (087) 6803355

E-mail: a.dobson@ucc.ie www.cellmark.ie

Referral: Self referral / GP / Solicitor

Type of test: Blood or Swab **Age of child:** Any age

Approved: UK's Lord Chancellor's Office

Cost: €650, €200 for additional alleged fathers. Same cost applies whether you attend laboratory or have testing done at another location by personnel provided by laboratory.

OQPS Ormond Quay Paternity Services

Dublin 1

Tel: (01) 8748699

E-mail: info@oqps.ie **Web:** www.oqps.ie

Referral: Self referral / GP / Solicitor

Type of Test: Blood or Swab. Samples collected by OQPS doctor or by a nominated GP for legal cases.

Clients may collect their own samples if results are not required for court purposes. **Age of Child:** Any age after birth. **Approved:** ISO & UKAS accredited.

Documentation and certificates available on request. **Cost:** Legal Cases €650, €110 for additional alleged fathers. €300 where not required for legal purposes.

Establishing Paternity /DNA Testing

for parents who are not married to each other

ALL PRICES QUOTED ARE CORRECT AT
TIME OF PUBLICATION.





Establishing Paternity/DNA Testing

for parents who are not married to each other

Paternity can be presumed, established or declared.

Presumptions of paternity arise if

- Parents are married to each other. There is a presumption in law that the husband is the father of the child unless it is proved otherwise.
- Parents are not married to each other, and the father's name is on the birth cert then he is presumed to be the father of the child. This does not give the father any legal rights in respect of his child.

Establishing paternity as a part of court proceedings.

It may be necessary to establish paternity, where paternity is in doubt, for example in any maintenance, access, guardianship or inheritance proceedings. The majority of these cases are heard in the local district court but can also be heard in the circuit court. The court hearing these proceedings may order that the parents involved undergo paternity testing before an order can be made.

If the court orders that testing be carried out, the court may also direct who is to pay the cost of the service; this may be the mother, the alleged father or shared cost.

Where a person refuses to undergo testing, the court can reach whatever conclusions it thinks proper in the circumstances of the particular case. For instance, if an alleged father refuses to undergo testing, the court might take the view that he was afraid the test would show that he was in fact the father. If it is the mother who refuses the court may take the view that she is afraid that the test would show that the man is not the father.

The Status of Children Act 1987 states that where there is a question of parentage the court may order that blood testing be carried out. However, Irish courts are accepting the results from swab (inside mouth) testing from approved laboratories.

Declaration of Parentage.

There is a special procedure available in the circuit court called a **Declaration of Parentage** which can be used only by the person whose parentage is in question (or by a person acting on her/his behalf). For example, where a parent has died and the child is making a claim on the estate, this procedure can be used to establish parenthood. It is not available to adopted children.



DNA Testing procedure

The DNA testing procedure is carried out on either blood samples or mouth swabs (inside of mouth) taken from the mother, father and child. In general the consent of the mother (and any other guardian) is required before a child will be tested. It could be considered illegal where a child is tested without the consent of the mother/guardian.

Testers would prefer that testing be carried out on the alleged father, mother and child at the same time. If this is not possible they will arrange for the testing to be carried out within a short period of time of each other on the same day. Photo ID is always required to make sure the correct people are providing the samples.

Some laboratories can arrange to have a testing kit sent to a GP of your choice. Check that the GP you choose will provide this service. Alternatively the laboratory you choose may have a list of GPs who will provide the service. Some laboratories have nurses available to travel to a specific location to carry out the testing procedure.

In most cases, where a nurse or a GP is involved in the testing procedure there will be an additional fee.

After the testing procedure has been completed, the samples will then be sent to a laboratory overseas for analysis. Test results should be available within 2 – 3 weeks.

Laboratories should provide a strictly confidential service. If you have any concerns about confidentiality discuss these with the laboratory.

Where results are required for court purposes it should be confirmed with the laboratory that they operate to a court approved standard.

Note:

Test results from paternity testing cannot, in themselves, be used to add the father's details to the birth certificate nor do they give the father any legal rights. See the leaflets on **Birth Registration** and **Guardianship**.