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Paternity Testing: To Be The Father Or Not To Be....

By Martin Myers

Before you can understand the importance of paternity testing, you must first understand the DNA element involved and why DNA is used to establish paternity. DNA is the pattern for your genetic makeup. Each and every person has a different pattern of DNA. However, persons belonging to certain ethnic backgrounds, certain races, or simply certain features, can have DNA that shows related characteristics. No two people, except for identical twins will have the same DNA.

Every person has 46 chromosomes in each cell. The only exceptions are the sperm and egg cells. They each have 23. At the moment of conception, however, the 23 chromosome from the sperm and egg combine to form 46, and at that moment, you have the chromosomes needed to create a new person. This pattern for your genetic makeup is a combination of maternal DNA and paternal DNA. In other words, half your makeup is your mother's and half is your father's. Now, since the mother would be the person giving birth, there is no dispute about maternal proof. She was there at birth. But what about paternal proof? How do you determine the identity of the father, without a shred of doubt?

Enter DNA paternity testing. DNA testing works in the following way. The DNA of the child is tested. A test strip of DNA "bands" is established. The DNA is then tested from the alleged father. If the child and the man share common "bands" in a number of different locations, then paternity is established with 99.9 percent accuracy. That is as accurate as the results can be. This is a seemingly simple test, to have such a staggering effect on the people's lives that are involved. Entire families have been ripped apart over paternity issues. Lives have been forever changed, thanks to one little DNA test.

Today, paternity testing is utilized to decide custody cases, establish legitimate child support cases, influence adoption proceedings, and to aid in claiming inheritance by providing proof of relationship. By far, however, the largest use of DNA testing is in determining paternity issues. Most courts accept 99.9 percent positive as equal to a result of 100%.

There are tests available that can be used at home, but in the case of a legal battle, or establishing legal paternity, only the tests conducted by certified and licensed facilities will be allowed.

Martin Myers provides medical related information on his blog at:
<http://www.paternity.4-your-health-only.com>

Dna Testing: Prenatal Dna Testing

By Alex Blake

The popularity of DNA paternity testing continues to grow in our society. Some observers have expressed concern about the emotional and financial impact of DNA paternity test results on young children. Paternity can now be determined before a baby is born through the use of prenatal DNA testing.

Prenatal DNA testing is possible because a child's DNA is formed at conception and does not change. Although prenatal DNA testing is a little more involved than a standard home DNA paternity test, the process is still fairly straightforward. The accuracy levels of prenatal DNA testing are identical to standard DNA paternity testing.

Prenatal DNA testing requires samples from the unborn child, the mother, and the alleged father. DNA samples from the unborn child are collected via amniocentesis or CVS. Amniocentesis is the removal of a small sample of the amniotic fluid surrounding the fetus. Amniocentesis can be performed during the 14th to 24th week of pregnancy.

Prenatal DNA testing also requires a separate physician's fee for drawing the DNA samples. DNA samples from the parents are collected via a buccal swab rubbed against the inside of the mouth. As with standard DNA paternity testing, DNA sample collection procedures may vary depending on whether you need court-admissible results. Prenatal DNA testing for court proceedings requires proof of identities and chain of custody verification by a witness.

Questions have been raised regarding the ethics of prenatal DNA testing, given that there are risks to the fetus. But there are several instances in which prenatal DNA testing is preferred. For example, in cases of artificial insemination, there may be a need to verify the sample source. Some DNA testing labs are now offering the option of non-invasive prenatal DNA testing. Fetal DNA can be isolated out of blood samples drawn from the mother's arm. This lowers the cost of prenatal DNA sample collection, and expands the number of facilities where samples may be drawn. And, most importantly, it eliminates risk to the unborn child.

For more information about Different Types of DNA or How to Get a DNA Test, please take time to visit <http://www.DNA-PaternityTests.com>.

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