

DNA Bioscience Code of Practice for Relationship Testing:

DNA Bioscience has developed a code of practice to reflect the sensitive and ethical issues involved with relationship testing. Our Code of Practice endeavours to protect the interests of all parties involved in DNA testing and to ensure that all parties have fully considered the likely impact of the results to family relationships.

1. Advice and Help.

We understand the importance of the decision you are about to make. We want to assure you of the validity of our work and the care we put into our testing. If at any point you have questions, we are happy to offer our assistance. Information is available through our website (www.dnabioscience.com) and we would be happy to answer your questions via email (paternity@dnabioscience.com) or by telephone (0800 633 5664).

We are also aware of the implications that DNA testing may have on individuals and families. We are more than willing to offer free counselling and advice to help deal with the life-changing moments that may occur. Individuals should also consider contacting professional counselling agencies, for independent advice. Organisations such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, (www.citizensadvice.org.uk), National Council for One Parent Families (0207 428 5400), Child Support Agency (0845 7133 133), Parent Line Plus (0808-800-22-22) and Families Need Fathers (0207-613-50-60) are just a few of the organisations who may be in a position to offer additional guidance, support and advice.

You can also obtain information and advice from your GP or a Solicitor practicing in family law.

2. Age and Consent

Anyone wishing to initiate DNA testing must be at least 18 years old.

Consent for those 18 years and above:

- Please be aware that we require consent from all adults involved (unless the person is no longer living or a court has ruled that a sample is required). This can be found on page 1 of our Consent Form.
- If a test involves an adult that is not capable of giving consent, it will be assessed on a case by case basis. DNA Bioscience will only carry out the test if we feel that after full investigation it is in the best interest of the individual. Some cases may require legal advice or a court ruling.

- Once the test has been carried out, we will send the results to the individual, court or solicitor who has requested the test. Should any other party wish to have results sent to them, we require that further consent forms be signed and we will charge an additional fee.

Consent for those less than 18 years of age:

- Only the person with parental responsibility for a person under 18 years can give consent for that child to be tested. The only time this requirement can be waived is when DNA testing has been court directed. (Please see Page 2 of our Consent Form).
- Tests which do not involve the mother's DNA should only take place where either the mother consents to the child being tested has been given, or where the putative father has parental responsibility. Motherless testing may be undertaken if a court considers that the test is in the best interest of the child. DNA Bioscience recognises that motherless testing can have a significant impact on family life and thus will not perform tests unless they are in accordance with the above guidelines.
- Once consent has been given, and the age and ability of the child have been taken into account, please consider the views and needs of the child being tested when reaching a final decision to test.
- If, for any reason, we have cause to doubt the authorisation of consent, DNA Bioscience will not carry out the test.

Best Interest of the Child:

- Tests will not be carried out if DNA Bioscience believes that it is not in the best interest of the child.

Confidentiality:

- It is our policy and promise to treat each case with the utmost confidentiality. All information that is provided to DNA Bioscience will be kept confidential. The details provided will be held in strict confidence and used solely for the purpose of carrying out the test and providing results.
- As the results are only sent to the person who has requested the test, it is the responsibility of that person to inform the other parties involved.