

## What happens when the test shows the man is the biological father (not excluded)?

If the test shows the man is the biological father, another step is needed so he can be the legal father:

- The parents can sign an Affidavit of Parentage (DCH-0682) to make him the legal father; or
- The parents can go to the local family court, where a judge will order that the man is the legal father.

## Are all records confidential and secure at the lab?

Yes. All records and reports are confidential and are kept secure at the lab.

## Where do I get started?

For DNA paternity testing, or to start a child support case, contact the Michigan Office of Child Support:  
866-540-0008  
[michigan.gov/childsupport](http://michigan.gov/childsupport)

For questions about DNA paternity testing, contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Office of Child Support:

866-540-0008  
[michigan.gov/childsupport](http://michigan.gov/childsupport)



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child support



Office of Child Support

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# — DNA — Paternity Testing



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## What is DNA paternity testing?

DNA paternity testing is a genetic test used to show whether a man is, or is not, the biological father of a child.

## What is DNA?

DNA is the genetic material in our bodies that contains hereditary information. DNA is passed down from both parents to their children.

## How is DNA paternity testing done?

Testing is done after the baby is born. It's simple and painless. DNA samples are taken by rubbing a cotton-tipped swab on the inside of the cheek of the mother, father and child. All three DNA samples are sent to a lab. The lab compares the samples for a match.

## Where is DNA paternity testing done?

Either parent can contact the Office of Child Support to ask for DNA paternity testing. A child support worker will arrange for a lab to do the testing and give the final report.

At-home paternity test results, or results from an unapproved lab, cannot be used to determine the legal father.

## How does the lab process the DNA samples?

The lab looks at the genetic material from the mother, father and child's DNA samples. Then, they compare them for matches.

## Does the age of the parents or child matter for a DNA paternity test?

No. The parent(s) and the child can have a DNA paternity test done at any age. Even parents under age 18 can have a DNA paternity test. Age does not affect the test results.

## Will drug use, illness or disease affect the DNA paternity test results?

No. The testing is not affected by these things. A person's DNA sample will not show that the person uses drugs, or has an illness or disease.

## Do all individuals have to be at the same location at the same time for sample collection?

No. Samples can be collected at different locations and at different times.

Photos and fingerprints are taken to help with the identification of the individual. The lab will start processing the samples when all samples arrive at the lab.

## What if either parent isn't available for DNA paternity testing?

- If the father lives outside the city or state, a child support worker can arrange for him to visit a lab near where he lives or works.
- If the father or mother is deceased or missing, there are other ways to do DNA paternity testing. A child support worker can help with that.

## Can parents trust the results of the DNA paternity tests?

Yes. DNA testing is the most accurate form of paternity testing.

Michigan contracts with a lab that has passed the Parentage Testing Accreditation Program, which sets the standards for DNA paternity testing.

## How long does it take to report the DNA paternity test results?

Most test results are done within two weeks from the date when all of the samples are received at the lab.

## Who pays for DNA paternity testing?

The Office of Child Support can help parents set up DNA paternity testing at little or no cost. The local family court will decide who pays for the testing.

## What do DNA paternity test results show?

There are two possible results:

- If the results show "Excluded as the father," this means the man is not the biological father.
- If the results show "Not excluded as the father," this means the man is the biological father.

The results will be able to tell if the man has at least a 99 percent chance of being the biological father.