

## DNA Testing for Family Reunification Visa Cases

After careful consideration of all the documentation presented at your immigrant visa interview, we are unable to clearly substantiate a bona fide relationship for the issuance of a visa.

It is the responsibility of the immigrant visa applicants to clearly substantiate a bona fide relationship between them and the petitioning relative and/or among derivative applicants in family reunification cases processed by the Consular Section of the American Embassy, Islamabad. In such cases, where immigrant visa applicants are unable to prove their claimed relationship(s) based on their interview with the consular officers and the documents presented, they are asked to consider DNA testing. Such testing analyzes the genetic material present in human cells and has been found to be over 99 percent accurate in verifying family relationships such as: parent/child, brother/sister, etc. The testing is entirely voluntary and is non-invasive and painless. The results are typically available within a month or so (varies by lab).

If you decide to submit to DNA testing, the petitioner in the U.S. should make arrangements for the test with any DNA laboratory in the U.S. that is accredited by the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) and conducts buccal swab testing. A list of AABB-accredited parental testing labs is attached and can also be found at:

[http://www.aabb.org/Content/Accreditation/AABB Accredited Blood Banks Transfusion Services and Blood Donor Centers/accredlisting.html](http://www.aabb.org/Content/Accreditation/AABB_Accredited_Blood_Banks_Transfusion_Services_and_Blood_Donor_Centers/accredlisting.html) Any Internet search engine can be used to look up the contact information for the individual labs. Please ensure, however, that the DNA laboratory you choose:

- (1) Can process buccal swabs
- (2) Is willing to process the testing for the relationship under question (not all tests are for paternity)
- (3) Is willing to handle international shipments
- (4) Will forward the buccal swab test kit to the Embassy in a pre-paid envelope

We will notify you when we receive the testing kit. All DNA samples for immigrant visa applications must be collected at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad. The Petitioner must request that the U.S. DNA testing lab send the DNA kit directly to U.S. Embassy Islamabad. After the DNA swab samples have been collected, we will send them to the U.S. lab requested by the petitioner. As soon as the lab sends the results to us, we will contact the applicants to continue their immigrant visa case.

Payment of the costs incurred for DNA testing is the responsibility of the petitioning relative in the United States. Prices for DNA testing vary by lab. Applicants must also pay Rs. 1500/- per person when they submit their swab samples in Pakistan (this fee goes directly to the local doctor who takes the samples).

If you have any questions regarding DNA testing, please e-mail us at <http://islamabad.usembassy.gov/contact-information/visa-inquiries.html>

**NOTE: You will be given 90 days from the date of this letter to participate in DNA testing. If you need additional time beyond 90 days, you may request addition time from this office before the end of the initial 90 days period. If you cannot participate in DNA testing within 90 days or a reasonably permitted time thereafter as conveyed to you in writing by the U.S. Embassy, your immigrant visa case will be processed towards denial of your visa application.**