

Panama City, Panama

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DNA TESTING

2014

DNA genetic testing is at times suggested as the final means of confirming the biological relationship between a parent and a child for acquisition of citizenship or immigrations purposes. It is not normally a requirement of the Embassy, and is only suggested in the most problematic of cases. DNA testing, when properly conducted, is virtually 100 percent accurate, and a positive result will assuage any doubt about the parentage of the child.

The Embassy maintains a list of laboratories in the U.S. that are accredited by the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) to perform genetic testing. The cost of the testing can vary, depending on which laboratory is used and whether or not the results are expedited. Fees normally range between \$600 and \$1,000, and the results are available between two and eight weeks after the laboratory receives the samples for analysis. **Costs for testing and related charges are borne by the family.**

One of the most important aspects of the testing process is the security of the samples taken from the two individuals. The chain of custody must be maintained from the moment the samples are taken by the physician until the kit arrives at the Embassy. Following the instructions below will ensure the validity of the test results.

1. The applicant or his/her guardian must contact the AABB-accredited laboratory in the U.S. to request that they send the testing kit to the Embassy. For a complete list of authorized laboratories visit:
http://www.aabb.org/Content/Accreditation/Parentage_Testing_Accreditation_Program/AABB_Accredited_Parentage_Testing_Laboratories
2. Payment must be made to the U.S. laboratory before the laboratory will send the DNA kit to the Embassy.
3. Once the Embassy receives the packet sent by the U.S. laboratory, we will contact you with instructions to attend the Embassy at the schedule set for the collection of the sample which will be done in the Embassy only.
4. The sample will be taken by an authorized laboratory technician at the U.S. Embassy in the presence of a consular officer. The consular officer will assemble and secure the package and return it by express courier to the U.S. laboratory.
5. If one of the individuals being tested resides in the United States, they should arrange to have the sample taken in the U.S. at a designated AABB testing site, lab, or clinic.
6. An original notification of the results will be sent directly to the Embassy, with a separate copy sent to the tested individuals. Once the Embassy has received its original copy, the case may proceed.

**AUTHORIZED LABORATORIES IN PANAMA FOR DNA TEST-RELATED ISSUES
(Sample Collection Only)
(As certified by the Consejo Técnico de Salud)**

Laboratorio Clínico Genetix

La Alameda, Edificio PH Plaza San Marcos #1

Local #6 Planta Baja

Tel: 260-2999 / Celular: 6679-7849

Email: lsolis@genetix.com.pa

Website: www.genetix.com.pa

Laboratorio Inmunogenetrix, S.A. (GEN) or Laboratorio Clinico Molecular (ADN) y Forense GEN

Edificio Adir, Local #2

Via Veneto y Cl. Eric del Valle, El Cangrejo

(Detrás del Aparthotel Las Vegas)

Tel: 213-9571 / Celular: 6674-6668 / Fax: 269-2786

Email: al_ve_rnaza@hotmail.com