

# Frequently Asked Questions About Genetic Testing

**Q: What should I do if I'm not sure I'm the father of a child?**

A: You can go to a Child Support Services (CSS) office and open a case to establish paternity or you can consult an attorney. CSS will only establish paternity if there is no legal father.

**Q: When is a father a legal father?**

A: A legal father is generally established when the father: 1) is married to the mother before or after the child is born, 2) has signed an Acknowledgment of Paternity, 3) is ordered to be the father in a court order or 4) has adopted the child.

**Q: Where can I get a genetic test?**

A: If it is a CSS case and there is no legal father, CSS will schedule a genetic test. There are also private labs that do testing.

**Q: How much will it cost?**

A: At CSS, you will not pay for the test unless the results show you are the father. If you are the father, the cost for testing is less than \$100. Private labs may charge up to \$1,000 and you must pay for the test even when you are not the father.

**Q: How is genetic testing done?**

A: A swab is used to collect cells from the mouth.

**Q: What is required to legally establish paternity?**

A: Genetic test results must be 99% or greater to show a legal certainty of paternity in Oklahoma.

**Q: Does everyone have to be tested at the same time and at the same place?**

A: No. Tests can be done wherever the parties live, whether they are in different states or different countries.

**Q: Can paternity be established if the alleged father has died?**

A: A specimen must be collected at the time of death and shipped to the laboratory immediately for testing to be performed. The alleged father's relatives can also be tested to determine paternity, if they agree to cooperate.

**Need more information about genetic testing?**

CALL CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES:

1-800-522-2922

TTY 711 OR 1-800-722-0353

VISIT YOUR LOCAL CSS OFFICE

FOR AN APPLICATION FOR SERVICES



**OKLAHOMA**

**Human Services**

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