

*Who
are we?*



DNA analysis at King's is part of King's Forensics at King's College London, providing specialist forensic services in DNA analysis including complex relationship testing, forensic casework, and forensic genetics and ancestry. Please contact us for more information about our range of forensic services. Our expert scientists have been working at the forefront of DNA analysis for over 35 years and offer:

- Complete confidentiality and secure storage of samples and results compliant with HTA and GDPR regulations, offering the option to withdraw consent at any time
- Friendly, experienced and approachable staff who will take time to explain the process and help you
- Before you commit to a test you can discuss the implications of taking a DNA test and what can reasonably be expected from the process
- Dedicated professional sampling clinic by appointment with the option to be seen as a group or independently, sampling in location by arrangement, or we can send a sampling kit to a medical professional who has agreed to take your samples, and undertake hospital and mortuary visits
- Reliable and ethical pre-natal sampling and testing
- Expert and confidential case management and advice available including visits by special arrangement and Expert Witness services in Court
- Senior scientists and senior case managers all educated to Doctorate or Master's Degree standard
- Duplicate testing in all cases undertaken in our state of the art laboratories
- UK Ministry of Justice accreditation to conduct complex immigration and court-approved parentage tests to UKAS Quality Standard
- BS EN ISO 17025 laboratory, subject to regular independent inspection; compliant with the Department of Health Code of Practice and Guidance on Genetic Paternity Testing Services
- GDPR and HTA compliant

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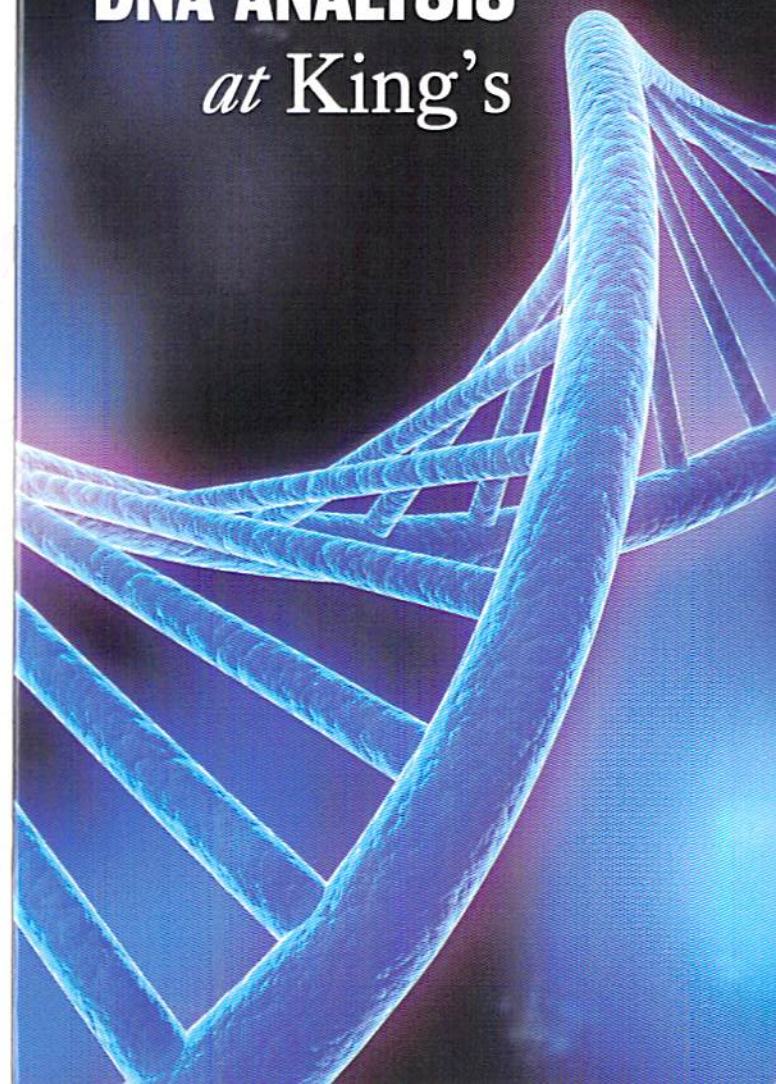
UKAS accredited testing
laboratory, approved by the
Ministry of Justice



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KING'S
College
LONDON

DNA ANALYSIS *at King's*



What is DNA testing?

Most cells in the body contain DNA; the ones we use for our tests are taken from the lining of the mouth or from blood. Everyone inherits their DNA in equal proportions from their mother and their father. When testing for paternity it is best to examine DNA from both parents so that we can see which parts come from the mother, and therefore determine which parts must come from the father.

In order to meet the required standard of proof for paternity and other relationship tests we use multiple DNA markers. We use a minimum of 22 markers to build up a picture of an individual's DNA by seeking out repeated patterns in different areas of the DNA strands. This enables us to assess the likelihood of a particular relationship. All samples are tested twice. You have the option to receive your results by post and email. All adult parties are entitled to an original report.

How long does it take?

We require no pre-registration payment. Just call for your appointment or sampling kit and pay online or when you give your sample. We will also accept a deposit to start the process. Tests take around 10 working days once you have given your sample but we can prioritise cases with a deadline. You will receive your results by post. All adult parties are entitled to copies of the report.



Types of DNA test

All of the tests we offer meet international quality (ISO 17025) and legal standards. We are accredited by the Ministry of Justice for court-directed section 20 paternity tests and complex relationship tests for immigration and other legal requirements.

Parentage (including birth certificate changes)

Paternity or maternity, including prenatal tests using chorionic villus samples or amniotic fluid, and we specialise in managing surrogacy and donor conceived cases, and for deceased individuals.

Immigration cases

When DNA tests are used to support a claimed relationship, meeting the requirements of the Home Office, HMPO and FCO. We can also arrange sampling in our worldwide partner clinics and organisations.

Complex relationships

When trying to establish close and complex relationships other than parent and child.

Y-chromosome tests

To help establish a direct paternal link between males – useful for genealogy, or when a putative father is deceased.

Mitochondrial DNA tests

To help establish a direct maternal link – useful for genealogy, in cases where a female relative is deceased, or to examine ancient DNA.

DNA sampling

A mouth swab or blood sample are the usual materials provided for testing. Contact us to make an appointment in our dedicated sampling clinic.

DNA sampling kits (provided free of charge)

We can send kits to registered medical practitioners once they agree to take samples.

Testing children

When a child under the age of 16 gives a sample for testing, this must be done with the consent of a person with parental responsibility for the care and control of the child, at the time of sampling. This person is normally assumed to be the mother, but other individuals can give consent, providing their right to do so can be legally established. If the mother is attending the clinic to give her consent, but is not being sampled, we also need her to demonstrate her legal right to do so. Adolescent children may be asked to give their own consent to the testing process.

Identification documents must be provided at the time of sampling, you can contact us for further advice about what you should provide.

Should I take a DNA test?

Every person taking part in a relationship test, particularly one involving a child, should think carefully about the implications for themselves and their family. Testing should only be carried out if it is in the best interests of the child.

Whatever its purpose, DNA testing is a serious matter and you have the right to expect that the result will be accurate. Only by choosing an accredited laboratory can you be assured of this. Since September 2007 it has been a criminal offence to have a sample taken for the purpose of testing DNA without proper informed consent. It is for this reason that we are unable to support do-it-yourself testing in which you take your own sample at home and send it to us.

