

## Services

### Barringtons Laboratories Barringtons Medical Centre George's Quay Limerick

Tel: (061) 490550  
Fax: (061) 490551

E-mail: pam.colbert@barringtonshospital.com  
Referral: Self Referral / GP / Solicitor

**Type of Test:** Blood. Heel prick from a baby. Finger prick from an adult. Off-site kit can be sent to a nominated GP.  
**Age of Child:** 6 weeks or older or at discretion of GP  
**Approved:** South African National Accreditation Scheme.  
**Cost:** €330. €175 for additional alleged fathers to be tested.

### Blackrock Clinic Co. Dublin

Tel: (01) 2064357

E-mail: creabyn@blackrock-clinic.com

[www.blackrock-clinic.com](http://www.blackrock-clinic.com)

Referral: Self Referral / GP / Solicitor

**Type of Test:** Swab

**Age of Child:** 2 weeks or older

**Approved:** UK's Lord Chancellor's Office

**Cost:** €630. €210 for additional alleged fathers to be tested.

### Dr. Stephen Murphy

#### The Park Clinic

#### Cabinteely

#### Dublin 18

Tel: (01) 2853666

E-mail: [info@paternity.ie](mailto:info@paternity.ie)

[www.paternity.ie](http://www.paternity.ie)

Referral: Self Referral / GP / Solicitor / Courts

**Type of Test:** Blood or Swab

**Age of Child:** Any age after birth

**Approved:** UKAS and ISO 17025

**Cost:** €600. €150 for additional alleged fathers to be tested.

### DNA Testing Limited

#### St James Medical Centre

#### 178 James Street, Dublin 8

Tel: (01) 6770766 Fax: (01) 6770857

E-mail: [philipconnell@eircom.net](mailto:philipconnell@eircom.net)

[www.irishdnatest.com](http://www.irishdnatest.com)

Referral: Self Referral/GP/Courts/Solicitors/Social Workers

**Type of test:** Blood or Swab

**Age of child:** Any age

**Approved:** UK's Lord Chancellor's Office

**Cost:** €600.

### Chemical Analysis Lab

#### Hudson Road

#### Sandycove

#### Co. Dublin

Tel: (01) 2360755, Fax: (01) 2360761

E-mail: [jbloom@iol.ie](mailto:jbloom@iol.ie) [www.cal.ie](http://www.cal.ie)

Referral: Self Referral / GP / Solicitor

**Type of Test:** Swab.

**Age of Child:** 2 weeks

**Approved:** UKAS and ISO 17025

**Cost:** €400, €750 if results required for court procedure.  
€150 for additional alleged fathers.

### DNA Ireland

#### Unit 50, South Cork Industrial Estate

#### Vicar's Road, Cork

Tel: (021) 4965809

Contact: Lucy Hooper

E-mail: [info@dnaireland.ie](mailto:info@dnaireland.ie) [www.dnaireland.ie](http://www.dnaireland.ie)

Referral: Self referral / GP / Solicitor / Courts

**Type of test:** Blood or Swab

**Age of child:** Any age

**Approved:** US Laboratory with ISO 17025, CAP and AABB accreditations.

**Cost:** €500 Blood, €500 Swab - both court approved. €300 swab test, where not required for legal purposes (pre and post test counselling available).

### Prof. Alan Dobson

#### Microbiology Dept.

#### University College Cork

Tel: (087) 6803355 Fax: (021) 4901932

E-mail: [a.dobson@ucc.ie](mailto:a.dobson@ucc.ie) [www.cellmark.ie](http://www.cellmark.ie)

Referral: Self referral / GP / Solicitor

**Type of test:** Blood or Swab

**Age of child:** Any age

**Approved:** UK's Lord's Chancellor's Office

**Cost:** €600, €200 for additional alleged fathers. Same cost applies whether you attend laboratory or have testing done at another location by personnel provided by laboratory.

### OQPS Ormond Quay Paternity Services

#### 34/35 Ormond Quay Lower, Dublin 1

Tel: (01) 8748699 Fax: (01) 4811788

E-mail: [info@oqps.ie](mailto:info@oqps.ie) Web: [www.oqps.ie](http://www.oqps.ie)

Referral: Self referral / GP / Solicitor

**Type of Test:** Blood or Swab. Samples collected by OQPS doctor or by a nominated GP for legal cases. Clients may collect their own samples where results are not required for court purposes.

**Age of Child:** Any age after birth.

**Approved:** ISO & UKAS accredited. Documentation and certificates available on request.

**Cost:** Legal Cases €650, €110 for additional alleged fathers. €350 where not required for legal purposes.

# ESTABLISHING PATERNITY



*information for parents who  
are not married to each other*

ALL PRICES QUOTED ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF PUBLICATION.

**NOTE:** Other companies offering to perform DNA tests can be accessed on the internet but we would strongly advise caution here. Check that the company is approved by an appropriate authority.

*While every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this leaflet is accurate, no responsibility can be accepted by Treoir for any error or omission.*



National Information Centre for parents who are not married to each other  
14 Gandon House, Custom House Square, IFSC, Dublin 1. LoCall: 1890 252 084  
Telephone: 01 6700 120, e-mail: [info@treoir.ie](mailto:info@treoir.ie), [www.treoir.ie](http://www.treoir.ie)

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Information Leaflet  
No. 13

The national federation of services for  
unmarried parents and their children



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Where parents are married to each other there is a presumption in law that the husband is the father of the child unless the contrary is proved. If parents are not married to each other, unless the father's name is on the Birth Certificate, there is no presumption in law as to who is the father of the child.

### **Paternity may be established by the courts in two ways:**

#### **1. As a part of court proceedings.**

It may be necessary to establish paternity, where paternity is in doubt, for example in any maintenance, access, guardianship or inheritance proceedings. The majority of these cases are heard in the Family Law Court in the District Court but can also be heard in the Circuit Court. The court hearing these proceedings may order that the parties to the case undergo paternity testing before an order can be made.

If the Court orders that testing be carried out, the Court may also direct who is to pay the cost of the service; this may be the mother, the alleged father or shared cost.

Where a person refuses to undergo testing, the court can draw whatever inferences it thinks proper in the circumstances of the particular case. For instance, if an alleged father refuses to undergo testing, the court might take the view that he was afraid the test would show that he was in fact the father.

The Status of Children Act 1987 states that where there is a question of parentage the court may order that blood testing be carried out. However, it would appear that currently the Irish Courts are also accepting the results from swab (inside mouth) testing from approved laboratories.

#### **2.. Special Procedure for a Declaration of Parentage.**

There is a special procedure available in the Circuit Court called a **Declaration of Parentage** which can be used only by the person whose parentage is in question (or by a person acting on her/his behalf). For example, where a parent has died and the child is making a claim on the estate, this procedure can be used to establish parenthood. It is not available to adopted children.

*Legal fees can be costly. However it is quite common for individuals to represent themselves in the District Court.*

### **Testing Procedure**

The testing procedure is carried out on either blood samples or mouth swab (inside of mouth) taken from the relevant parties. In general the consent of the mother is required before a child will be tested; where consent of the mother is not obtained the legality of testing could be in question.

Testers would prefer that testing be carried out on all parties at the same time. If this is not possible they will arrange for the testing to be carried out on all parties within a short period of time of each other on the same day. Photo ID is always required to ensure identities. Some laboratories can arrange to have a testing kit sent to your nominated GP. Check that the GP you choose will provide this service or alternatively your chosen laboratory may have a list of GPs that will provide the service. In the case of some laboratories a nurse may be available to visit a named location to carry out the testing procedure. In most cases, where a nurse or a GP is involved in the testing procedure there will be an additional fee.

After the testing procedure has been completed, the samples will then be sent to a laboratory overseas for analysis. Test results should be available within 2 – 3 weeks.

Testers should provide a strictly confidential service. If you have any concerns about confidentiality discuss your concerns with the laboratory.

Where results are required for court purposes it should be confirmed with the laboratory that they operate to a court approved standard.

#### **NOTES:**

Test results from paternity testing cannot, in themselves, be used to add the father's details to the Birth Certificate

It is worth noting that even where an unmarried father's name is on the Birth Certificate this in itself does not give him any legal rights in respect of his child.

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