

## Maxxam has established itself as Canada's premier choice when it comes to DNA and scientific testing expertise

Maxxam is a wholly Canadian-owned and operated company, and is, therefore, in compliance with stringent Canadian Federal and Provincial Privacy Acts. Personal genetic information cannot be released to any government agency (domestic or international) without your consent.

Tested parties are assured that their information is fully protected by Canadian Privacy Laws when using Canadian-owned and operated DNA testing companies. Use of a company that sends genetic and personal information outside of Canada (USA or other) means one's personal information is no longer protected and is subject to foreign laws that do permit the release of customer information (including genetic) to foreign government agencies without your knowledge.

### Additional questions or ordering a DNA paternity test?

Contact Maxxam directly and speak with one of our experienced customer service representatives who would be happy to assist you.

#### Additional Services

- DNA maternity testing
- DNA sibling testing
- DNA twin testing
- Y-STR (Patrilineage) testing
- CIC (Immigration) approved testing
- Forensic Biology & DNA testing
- Expert testimony & consultation



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## DNA TESTING

Canada's most trusted private laboratory



\*Accredited by the Standards Council of Canada as a testing laboratory for Forensic Human DNA Testing registered with the Council. Accredited by the Forensic Quality Service and found to comply with the quality assurance standards for forensic DNALaboratories.

Maxxam



## WHAT IS A DNA PATERNITY TEST?

**DNA**, or deoxyribonucleic acid, is the genetic blueprint that determines a person's biological characteristics. We inherit our DNA in equal parts, 50% from our mother and 50% from our father.

Using PCR-STR DNA technology, Maxxam compares the DNA from the alleged father and child at highly variable DNA markers, to determine if they match at 50% of their DNA. If the DNA from the alleged father does not match that from the child, the alleged father is excluded as the biological father; this is reported as 0% probability of paternity. When the DNA does match, the alleged father is concluded to be the biological father; this is typically reported as 99.95% probability of paternity or higher.

## TWO PATERNITY TESTING OPTIONS

### Legal Test

In a legal paternity test, Maxxam arranges witnessed (ID and photo required) sample collection appointments for those being tested, at one of our 400 collection facilities within Canada. The strict Chain of Custody procedure is required to ensure the results are acceptable to Courts, child support offices, and other government agencies.

### In-Home Test

An in-home paternity test is an economical alternative to the Legal Test and provides the flexibility of collecting one's own DNA samples at a convenient place and time. Maxxam will supply easy-to-use DNA collection kits, complete with simple instructions and a pre-paid return envelope to send samples back to our laboratory. In-Home paternity test results are to be used for personal knowledge and not for legal or quasi-legal purposes.



When the DNA does match, the alleged father is concluded to be the biological father of the child, typically at a minimum probability of paternity of 99.95% or higher.

## FAQ's

### Why choose Maxxam?

Maxxam's DNA service was founded in 1998 by Canada's leading DNA scientific experts who set precedent by becoming the first private DNA laboratory in Canada to provide accredited DNA testing. Today, Maxxam is the only private DNA testing company in Canada, providing DNA paternity and forensic testing to government agencies under tendered contracts.

### Why is accreditation important?

DNA testing services are not regulated in Canada. Voluntary accreditation by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) is the only way for a laboratory to demonstrate that they have quality measures in place, and staff with the necessary education and training requirements.

### What type of sample is collected for a standard paternity test?

A DNA sample is collected by rubbing a soft sponge along the inside of the cheek, which is gentle enough for newborns.

### Is testing the mother necessary?

The mother's participation is recommended, but not required in a paternity test. Testing the mother gives a higher probability of paternity ( $\geq 99.95\%$ ), but the test is conclusive without obtaining a sample from the mother.

### Do parties need to attend the sample collection together?

No. Collection of DNA samples can be performed if the parties live in different cities, provinces or countries.

### One of the parties is unavailable. Can paternity testing still be done?

In lieu of testing one of the parties (i.e. the alleged father or child), testing may be completed by substituting a "non-standard" sample that may contain that individual's DNA. Non-standard samples include personal items and/or discarded samples. An alternative to the use of "non-standard" items is to test additional living relatives.

Maxxam also offers Y-STR DNA technology for the determination of patrilineage relationships.

### How long will results take?

Upon receipt of all required DNA samples, results for a standard paternity test will be ready within 5 business days or less.

### How can tested parties be assured that all information remains confidential?

All staff have enhanced security clearance issued by the RCMP and Public Works and Government Services Canada.