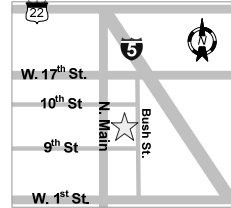


Things to Remember

- Questions regarding paternity are most easily answered with genetic testing.
- The parties may agree on genetic testing, or the judge may order individuals to submit to the test.
- Testing requires a small amount of blood or other genetic material be taken from the mother, child and possible father.
- Results are available within approximately two weeks.

Orange County Department of Child Support Services

Steven Eldred, Director



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Customer Service Center is open Monday - Friday from 7:00 A.M. until 4:30 P.M. and one Saturday each month. (7:00 A.M. to 8:00 A.M. - scheduled appointments only)
Visit our website for details. www.css.ocgov.com

Customer Connect

California's Self-Service Website
www.childsup-connect.ca.gov

Payment Mailing Address

State Disbursement Unit
P.O. Box 989067
West Sacramento, CA 95798

Pay Online: www.css.casdu.com

Pay by Phone: 1-866-325-1010



This pamphlet is intended to explain the general procedures of the Department of Child Support Services and should be used for informational purposes only.

Genetic Testing for Paternity



Orange County
Department of
Child Support Services

What is Paternity

Paternity means fatherhood. If the parents are not married, it is important to establish paternity so that the legal rights of the child and parents are secured.

What is Genetic Testing for Paternity

The legal process of determining the biological father of the child is called establishing paternity. If fatherhood of the child is in doubt, strong scientific evidence can be obtained to help resolve the issue. These scientific tests are based on the presence of inherited genetic traits ("markers"), which are passed from parent to child.

Motherless genetic tests can be completed when the mother of the child is not available to provide a blood sample. The testing laboratory will compensate for the lack of a third blood sample by running additional tests.

Note: Effective January 1, 2000, pursuant to Family Code Section 7575(2)(a), a Notice of Motion for Genetic Tests may be filed no later than two years from the date of the child's birth by Child Support Services (CSS), the mother, or the man who signed the Declaration of Paternity.

How Does Genetic Testing Help?

For each genetic test, the genetic markers occur in pairs. One marker (for each pair) comes from the mother (maternal marker), and the other one comes from the father (paternal marker). Testing of mother and child enables scientists to determine the markers contributed by the father. The tested man's markers are compared with the mother's and child's markers.

What Conclusions Can be Reached from Genetic Testing?

If the tested man does not have the paternal markers, he can be excluded (eliminated) as the father. If the tested man has the paternal markers, strong evidence exists to conclude that he is the father.

Is There a Cost for Genetic Testing?

No. Genetic testing is conducted at no cost to the tested man. Child Support Services will not enter a judgment against the tested man ordering reimbursement of genetic test costs when the tested man has been determined to be the biological father.

Note: For interstate paternity cases, the initiating state pays for genetic test costs in all paternity actions. Child Support Services will continue to advance the costs, if applicable, in accordance to the responding states guidelines.

Do Courts Accept Genetic Evidence?

Yes. If paternity is contested, the judge may order the parties to have genetic testing.

How Do I Get Genetic Testing?

If paternity has not been established for your child and you would like to open a case to do so, you may call the Department of Child Support Services at (866) 901-3212 to request an application. You may also log on to our website at www.css.ocgov.com to submit an application for services on-line or download an application to your computer.

How Long Does it Take to Get Results

Results are available and mailed to the tested parties approximately two weeks after the specimens are collected.