

DNA Testing at post:

DNA Testing Procedures

DNA testing analyzes the genetic material present in human cells and has been found to be over 99 percent accurate in verifying family relationships such as: parent/child, brother/sister, etc. The DNA testing is completely voluntary and all costs and expenses associated with the test must be paid entirely by the applicant and/or his or her family. The results are typically available within 3 months (this time frame varies by lab).

Do not order a DNA test kit until you have discussed your case with a consular officer, as specific procedures must be adhered to.

Choose an Accredited Lab

You must use any DNA laboratory that is accredited by the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) that conducts buccal swab testing.

Testing can be conducted in the United States or at the United States Embassy in Bogota, Colombia. The laboratory conducting the tests must send the test results and an interpretation of the data to the U.S. Embassy directly. All expenses must be paid by you, including shipping costs, and must be paid in advance.

If you choose to have the DNA test conducted in the United States, the DNA testing procedures must be in accordance with the joint AMA-ABA Guidelines and the guidelines set forth by the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB). The laboratory must provide kits and instructions which should be forwarded to the American Citizen Services, Consular Section, United States Embassy, Carrera 45 No. 24B-27 Bogotá, D.C. Colombia. The Embassy will arrange for DNA testing on all required individuals to be conducted in the presence of an Embassy approved physician/technician. Embassy approved physician/technician's will strictly adhere to the medical and shipping requirements issued by the accredited laboratory of your choosing. The list of AABB accredited laboratories in the United States is available on the following website <http://www.aabb.org/sa/facilities/Pages/RTestAccrFac.aspx>

If you elect to utilize a foreign laboratory facility or a laboratory not on the AABB approved list, the laboratory chosen must provide its credentials and testing criteria to the U.S. Embassy in Bogota to ensure comparable professional standards meet or exceed AABB and joint AMA/ABA guidelines. Please ensure that the DNA laboratory you choose:

1. Is willing to process the testing for the relationship under question (not all tests are for paternity);
2. Is willing to handle international shipments including providing the necessary customs clearance forms; and
3. Will forward the buccal swab test kit to the Embassy with a pre-paid return envelope.

Please DO NOT use a third party to select your U.S.-based lab, arrange appointments, or transport specimens, and at no time should the lab send you a testing kit. Please inform the U.S. Embassy immediately if you personally receive a testing kit by contacting FPMBogota@state.gov

Appointments

The Embassy will contact the applicant by telephone or in writing upon receipt of the DNA testing kit. Please note: appointments cannot be scheduled by applicants prior to the Embassy receiving the DNA test kit.

The applicant should plan to arrive at the US Embassy - Consular Section at least 15 minutes prior to their appointment time. Electronic equipment is not allowed inside the Embassy to include cell phones and cameras.

Required Documents

1. Two passport style photos with a white background of the person who is going to be tested; Write full names and surnames and the date of the appointment on the back of the photograph.
2. Identification Document and a photocopy of the passport of the person to whom the test will be performed
3. For minors, in addition to the previous documents, the recent birth certificate of the minor is required (Civil Registry)
4. Each person over the age of 13 who needs to enter the embassy (including accompanying persons) must bring 1 form of photo identification. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THAT FORM OF IDENTIFICATION YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ENTER AND YOU WILL HAVE TO RESCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT.

Fees

All fees, to include shipping charges, must be paid by the applicant BEFORE the lab sends the test kit to the Embassy. At the time of the appointment, there will be an additional laboratory

technician fee of 69,000 (COP) that must be paid prior to the DNA testing procedure.

After the Test

The DNA test facility will send the results directly to the Embassy. We will contact you with the results.

Questions and Contact Information

Telephone: (+57) (1) 275-2497

Fax: (+57) (1) 275-4600

Email: FPMBogota@state.gov