

About Orchid Cellmark

Orchid Cellmark is a family of DNA paternity and forensic testing companies in North America and the United Kingdom. Orchid Cellmark provides paternity and relationship testing in child support, immigration and adoption cases as well as forensic testing in criminal matters. Together, our labs have performed more than 1 million parentage tests since 1978, making us one of the largest and most experienced providers of DNA testing in the world.

In addition to routine DNA Testing, Orchid Cellmark offers alternative technologies including Y-STR and mitochondrial DNA analysis for cases where the alleged relationship is more remote. This is extremely useful in some immigration cases.

All testing is performed at one of our fully-owned and operated laboratories. Our testing facilities are automated with state-of-the-art robotics and analyzers for fast turnaround time and precise results.

Accreditations

Orchid Cellmark is proud of our outstanding record of quality. Based on our Standards Council of Canada accreditation, Orchid Cellmark's testing facility is approved by Citizenship & Immigration Canada as a supplier for immigration testing. This provides our clients with the assurance that our laboratory is subjected to strict quality control measures.

Statement of Confidentiality

Your privacy and security are important to us. Orchid Cellmark treats all information in confidence. Information of any kind, including reports, is carefully safeguarded.

Uniting
families
through
technology



ORCHID
CELLMARK

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Experience the Power of DNA

Your Questions Answered



What is DNA?

Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) is the genetic material that is found in the nucleus in most cells in the human body.

This type of DNA is inherited in equal portions from a person's mother and father. Full biological siblings also share approximately 50% of their DNA with each other. To a lesser degree, individuals also share DNA with other relatives such as aunts, uncles and cousins. This is what makes DNA useful as a means to determine a relationship.

What Relationships can be Tested?

DNA testing can conclusively identify a parent and child relationship and is extremely powerful in identifying other relationships such as:

- Grand-paternity
- Grand-maternity
- Aunt/uncle – niece/nephew
- Full or half siblings

Our trained staff will discuss each case with you to ensure that the most appropriate 'known' relatives are tested and that the best DNA technology is used, to achieve the most conclusive result.

What type of biological sample is collected?

The most common biological specimen for a DNA test is a non-invasive mouth swab. The swab is obtained by gently rubbing the inside cheek of the tested party. This procedure is quick and painless.

Where are the samples collected?

Orchid Cellmark has a network of thousands of specimen collection sites in North America plus hundreds throughout the world.

The samples for a case do not have to be collected in the same place at the same time. This means that the Sponsor can be collected in Canada and the Applicant can be collected either abroad or in Canada.

Appointments within North America are generally scheduled by Orchid Cellmark after receiving the application for testing. The overseas appointments are usually the responsibility of the Canadian Embassy or Consulate and are scheduled as quickly as the government is able.

How will Orchid Cellmark ensure the identity of the parties being tested?

Orchid Cellmark requires that each tested party is identified through government-issued identification. Each client must provide a signature, fingerprint and two recent passport photos. These procedures are in accordance with accreditation and government requirements and will help to ensure the correct identity of all tested parties.

How long does a DNA test take?

Once all the samples are received by Orchid Cellmark, the results will usually take 5-7 business days. A copy of the results will be sent to the Sponsor (or his/her representative) by regular mail and a copy will be sent to the Canadian Embassy by courier.

How conclusive is a DNA parentage test?

The results of a routine DNA parentage test are extremely conclusive. They will either show that the tested parent is not

the biological parent or will provide proof of parentage with an average probability of 99.9%.

How does one set up a case?

One of our experienced Immigration Specialists is ready to assist you. You can either provide your case information over the phone at 1-866-TEST-DNA (837-8362) or download our application form at www.orchidcellmark.com. The completed form can be faxed or mailed to Orchid Cellmark along with a copy of the letter from the Canadian Embassy requesting the test.

Can Orchid Cellmark provide services in other languages?

Orchid Cellmark's Immigration Specialists can assist clients in both English and French.

How much does a test cost?

Our prices are very competitive and include all costs except the overseas collection costs in most cases. This all-inclusive pricing ensures that the Applicant only has to take a minimal amount of money to the specimen collection appointment. The cost of a test will vary, depending on the number of parties tested and the DNA technology used. Please call for a detailed quote.

Why Choose Orchid Cellmark?

Orchid Cellmark has been providing confidential, conclusive relationship testing results since 1978. Based on the Standards Council of Canada accreditation, Orchid Cellmark's testing facility is approved by Citizenship & Immigration Canada as a supplier for immigration testing. Orchid Cellmark supports the results we issue and will assist the Embassy and/or our clients with the interpretation of results, after they have been issued, if required.