

WHO'S THE DADDY?

Confirming who the father of a child is, is often a prerequisite in child maintenance cases and inheritance claims. In the event of a dispute one or both parties may demand that a paternity test is carried out.

Paternity tests, although there are many different kinds, are all based on genetic variability – most individuals are likely to have two different variants of one particular gene, one from the mother and one from the father. Comparing the child's DNA pattern with that of the alleged father provides evidence of a biological relationship. In South Africa, the most accurate test used is DNA profiling, and according to Dr. Carolyn Tsilimigras of Lancet Laboratories, a member of the National Pathology Group, Lancet alone does roughly 130 paternity tests each month. DNA profiling produces results within four days and has a 99.999% accuracy rate. The cost of the test is R1 000 per profile, and is not covered by medical aid. For more information contact Laura Boon on 011 658-1581 or email laura@lbcommunications.co.za.

