

NOW A DNA PROFILE CAN SIMPLIFY ESTATE ADMINISTRATION



WHY IS A DNA TEST IMPORTANT FOR ESTATE PLANNING?

When someone dies, the estate they leave behind is often subjected to claims from people alleging to be biologically linked to the deceased. The claims could be against an estate, insurance policy, pension fund, etc. with benefits allowed to biological dependents only.

A verified DNA test, with guaranteed Chain of Custody through Ampath Laboratories, has proven invaluable in resolving many disputes and estate administration problems. DNA is quickly becoming the simplest way to simplify the estate administration process. Essentially, a DNA test can prove whether a claimant is biologically related, or not, to the deceased. This DNA proof is often the deciding factor of whether someone receives a claim or not.

HOW DOES A DNA TEST WORK?

The DNA process at Ampath Laboratories has been developed to make sure that all relevant parties understand the test and give consent; and that the sample's Chain of Custody is maintained throughout. The person being tested will attend an Ampath facility and sign their consent to do the DNA test. A swab is used to collect a sample from the inside of the cheek. The swab is carefully labelled and transported to the Ampath National Reference Laboratory, where Chain of Custody continues to be preserved.

The sample goes through a process of DNA extraction and analysis using a Polymerase



FACILITY NETWORK

3 - 24 hour, fully licensed, SANAS accredited full service laboratories

30 - Satellite laboratories across South Africa

200 - Patient service centres

PATHOLOGY IS IN OUR DNA



Chain Reaction (PCR) technique with markers testing for the presence of 27 specific DNA regions. This is a larger profile than most other laboratories offer. At AmPath, the resulting PCR products are separated with capillary electrophoresis and detected as peaks on an electropherogram, generated by the ABI Prism 3500 Genetic Analyser. The resulting DNA profile is available within one week and is put in safekeeping for future comparison against the DNA profile of an alleged biological child.

HOW IS THE ACCURACY AND RELIABILITY OF THE DNA TEST ENSURED?

To ensure the accuracy and reliability of a DNA profile, it is essential that it is collected and witnessed by an independent third party such as an AmPath Laboratory nurse. Unfortunately, the DNA profile will not be correct in the event of a recent blood transfusion or bone-marrow transplant.

HOW IS PERSONAL DATA PROTECTED?

AmPath processes all DNA data, which is classified as special information and biometrics, in line with the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA). A DNA report is always confidential and will be processed based on what a court has requested and according to the consent form initially signed. The report is available only to the signatory and to any other entity to whom they have assigned permission to manage their affairs. Should AmPath be legally required to release a report, the informed consent signed at the beginning of the process covers this eventuality.

KEY BENEFITS

- **Access-controlled Laboratories**
- **Chain of Custody**
- **Easy-to-understand report**
- **Guaranteed appointment time**
- **No GP consultation required**
- **Password-protected emailed report to nominated recipient with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**
- **Sample reusable for 10-year period**
- **SANAS Accredited tests, annually audited**
- **Simple collection process**
- **Testing by Medical scientists and access to discuss results**