

The consular officer has suggested that DNA testing could be used to prove the validity of a relationship in conjunction with an immigrant visa application. 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 testing is entirely voluntary and all costs and expenses associated with it must be borne entirely by the petitioner and/or the beneficiary. The results are typically available within a month or so (this varies by lab).

The petitioner may choose to use any DNA laboratory that is accredited by the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) and conducts buccal swab testing. A list of AABB-accredited parental testing labs can be found at [http://www.aabb.org/About the AABB/Std%20and\\_Accred/aboutptlabs.htm](http://www.aabb.org/About_the_AABB/Std%20and_Accred/aboutptlabs.htm)

Any Internet search engine can be used to look up the contact information for the individual labs. Please ensure that the DNA laboratory you choose:

1. Can process buccal swabs
2. Is willing to process the testing for the relationship under question (not all tests are for paternity)
3. Is willing to handle international shipments
4. Will forward the buccal swab test kit to the Embassy in a pre-paid envelope.

If you decide to proceed with a DNA test, the petitioner in the U.S. should make arrangements for the test with an AABB-accredited lab. The sample collection will be performed by one of the Embassy panel physicians.

Payment of the costs incurred for DNA testing is the responsibility of the petitioning relative in the United States. Prices for DNA testing vary by lab. Applicants must also pay a sample collection fee to the panel physician.

After the DNA swab samples have been taken, we will send them to the AABB accredited lab requested by the petitioner. As soon as the lab sends their results to us, we will contact the applicant to continue his/her immigrant visa processing. The Visa Section will contact you once the test results have been received.