



Specific Accreditation Criteria

ISO/IEC 17025 Application Document

Legal (including Forensic Science) - Annex

Parentage Testing for the Australian Family Law Act

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Parentage Testing for the Australian Family Law Act

This Annex is applicable to facilities conducting parentage testing and reporting in accordance with the Family Law Act 1975 (Cth), the Status of Children Act (NSW) and/or the Children and Community Services Act (WA).

Applicant and accredited facilities must comply with all relevant documents in the NATA Accreditation Criteria (NAC) package for Legal (including Forensic Science) (refer to *NATA Procedures for Accreditation*).

The clause numbers follow those of ISO/IEC 17025 but since not all clause numbers require interpretation the numbering system may not be consecutive.

6 Resource requirements

6.2 Personnel

6.2.2 DNA analysts undertaking parentage testing under the Family Law Act, the Status of Children Act (NSW) and/or the Children and Community Services Act (WA) and who prepare Form 5, Part I and/or Form 5 Part II as prescribed in Schedule 1 of the Family Law Regulations 1984 (Cth), must have a Bachelor degree or equivalent. They must have appropriate DNA facility experience, have completed a relevant training program and have demonstrated the following:

- a sound knowledge of the scientific literature and procedures relevant to DNA testing;
- a thorough knowledge of the relevant theory and practice of DNA typing;
- the necessary skills to evaluate and interpret results of those tests;
- an ability to communicate orally the technical aspects of DNA typing to a lay audience;
- the successful completion of competency test(s) in the relevant area(s).

DNA analysts undertaking parentage testing and who are competent to prepare Form 5, Part 1 are called Reporters.

Reporters must have relevant experience in the interpretation of genetic data.

NATA will retain records of persons who are approved Reporters. These records will include academic and professional qualifications, relevant work experience and date(s) of assessment interviews.

A facility cannot be accredited for parentage testing without the services of an approved Reporter.

6.2.5 Technicians are expected to have completed a relevant training program.

Technicians will not have the sole responsibility for the interpretation of results and will not prepare reports.

6.4 Equipment

6.4.4 Facilities should ensure that they have a sufficient number of DNA typing systems at their disposal (e.g. by the use of large STR multiplex systems) to enable the resolution of more difficult cases (e.g. those involving related male individuals as potential fathers of a child):

- the combined paternity/maternity index must not be less than 1000;
- test systems used must achieve a combined power of exclusion of 99.9%;

7 Process requirements

7.8 Reporting of results

7.8.1 General

- there must be at least two independent examples of a mismatch to report an exclusion of parentage. However, at least three independent examples of a mismatch is recommended. Where only two mismatches are observed the facility should report an exclusion of parentage with caution.
- in the event of non-exclusion of parentage involving one or more mismatches (i.e. mutations) an appropriate calculation must be used to determine the mutation index and must include the mutation rate for each mismatched locus. This calculation must be incorporated into the combined paternity or maternity index.
- mismatches must be assessed based on the circumstances of the case and the likelihood of a mutation occurring. In all cases the facility must be able to justify its opinion regardless of the minimum requirements set.

7.8.3 Specific requirements for test reports

7.8.3.1 Reports must comply with the requirements of the Family Law Regulations, the Status of Children Act (NSW) and/or the Children and Community Services Act (WA).

The following must be noted on test reports:

- discrepancies between specimen labelling and the accompanying Forms;
- omissions from the requirements for Forms as detailed in the Family Law Regulations 1984 (Cth); , the Status of Children Act (NSW) and/or the Children and Community Services Act (WA);
- inadequacies in specimen seals including any deviations as detailed in the relevant Act and/or Regulations;
- combined paternity/Maternity Index reported to a whole number;
- relative Chance of Paternity/Maternity reported as a percentage;
- all test results obtained must be recorded on Form 5, Part II;
- Form 5, Part II must present actual test results, not an interpretation of test results;
- Form 5, Part I must include a statement as to the source of the population database used.

References

This section lists publications referenced in this document. The year of publication is not included as it is expected that only current versions of the references shall be used.

NATA publications

NATA Accreditation Criteria (NAC) package for for Legal (including Forensic Science)

Other publications

Family Law Regulations 1984 (Cth);

Status of Children Act (NSW)

Children and Community Services Act (WA)

AMENDMENTS

The table below provides a summary of changes made to the document with this issue.

Section	Amendment
All	Editorial amendments and re-alignment
6.4.4	Paternity/maternity index increased to 1000
7.8.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Several points previously under 6.4.4 have now been moved to 7.8.1• Three independent mismatches is now recommended before an exclusion can be reported.