

10 Questions to Ask Before Choosing a Prenatal Paternity Testing Provider

Use this checklist during your consultation. Record the provider's answers and ask for supporting documents where appropriate. Decide before collection whether the result is for private information, court proceedings or immigration.

CHECK	QUESTION TO ASK	WHY IT MATTERS	PROVIDER'S ANSWER / NOTES
[]	1. From what gestational age can testing be performed?	Testing too early can leave insufficient cell-free DNA and may require recollection.	_____
[]	2. Which samples are required from the mother and alleged father?	Confirm the correct blood tubes, cheek swabs and whether any extra participants are needed.	_____
[]	3. Where is the DNA analysis performed?	Know the identity and location of the analysing laboratory, especially when samples are exported.	_____
[]	4. What accreditation, validation and quality standards does the laboratory hold?	Ask for evidence relevant to relationship testing, not only general laboratory accreditation.	_____
[]	5. Which testing method and how many genetic markers are used?	A validated high-density SNP or sequencing method should support the reported conclusion.	_____
[]	6. Is the test suitable for my circumstances?	Disclose twins, IVF, surrogacy, related alleged fathers, transfusion, transplant or other relevant history.	_____
[]	7. Can the result be used for legal or immigration purposes?	Legal use may require identity checks, witnessed collection and an unbroken chain of custody.	_____
[]	8. What will the report state, and who will explain the result?	The provider should explain exclusion, non-exclusion, probability of paternity and any limitations.	_____
[]	9. What happens if the first test is inconclusive?	Clarify repeat testing, recollection, shipping fees, timing and refund terms before paying.	_____
[]	10. What is the complete cost, turnaround time and privacy process?	Confirm all charges, when timing begins, how data are protected and who can receive the report.	_____

Warning signs: Guaranteed results in every case; pressure to test before the method's validated gestational age; refusal to identify the analysing laboratory; vague answers about accreditation or legal chain of custody; or unclear repeat-test, refund and privacy policies.

Before legal or immigration testing: Confirm the receiving court, embassy or immigration authority's requirements before collection. A private peace-of-mind test may not be accepted later if identity verification and chain-of-custody procedures were not followed.