

Brochure¹ on the genetic test (DNA test) carried out after collection of blood drops within the framework of an application for a family reunification visa

What are the motives for genetic testing?

It may happen that the documents proving the blood relationship as required within the framework of the family reunification procedure under Article 12 bis, §6 or Article 40 bis, §2 and Article 40 ter of the Law of 15 December 1980 cannot be produced. In the absence of any official documentary evidence the Aliens Office may offer you to have a DNA test carried out so as to establish the relationship between the applicant (the person in the country of origin or of legal residence and who applies for family reunification) and the sponsor (the person residing in Belgium, with regard to whom family reunification is applied for and who gives his/her consent to genetic testing). The DNA testing is a reliable method for determining the biological relationship between parent and child.

What is a genetic test (DNA test)?

The genetic test (or DNA test) is aimed at drawing up a genetic identity card or a genetic fingerprint from the genetic blueprint of a person (the DNA). The genetic test makes it possible, within the framework of family reunification, to verify whether or not there is a biological relationship between the individuals tested and, moreover, to distinguish paternity and maternity relationship (father/mother-child) from sibling relationship (brother-sister) or avuncular relationship (uncle/aunt-nephew/niece). A child indeed inherits one half of his/her genetic blueprint from the mother and one half from the biological father.

How is the test carried out?

The DNA is obtained from the blood cells in the blood sample. The collection of the applicant's blood sample abroad is organized by the Belgian diplomatic or consular representation; The collection of the sponsor's blood sample in Belgium is carried out by the Genetic Fingerprinting Laboratory of the Erasmus Clinic (of which the contact details are mentioned below), designated as pilot laboratory to carry out DNA tests.

The collection of blood samples only takes place after having obtained your written consent.

The identity of the individuals tested shall be ascertained on the basis of the documents available and a recent photograph.

The results of the analysis will be obtained after a period of about 6 weeks if both parents are tested and 8 weeks if one parent only is tested. Such results shall be directly transmitted to the Aliens Office.

¹ This brochure provides information on the genetic test or DNA test carried out within the framework of family reunification procedures under Articles 12 b (6) and 40 b (2) and 40ter of the Law of 15 December 1980. Such information should enable the persons concerned to give their consent with full knowledge of the relevant facts. The test is carried out – with the written consent of the persons concerned – by a genetics laboratory specialised in relationship testing and the costs fall to the sponsor (a person residing in Belgium, with regard to whom family reunification is applied for and who gives his/her consent to genetic testing).

Financial contribution

After having filled out Annexe 3 B (entitled “sponsor’s consent form for genetic testing”) at the Aliens Office, the sponsor shall pay the corresponding amount (i.e. 200 euros per individual tested) into the account of the Genetic Fingerprinting Laboratory of the Erasmus Clinic (no. 001-0615141-43), mentioning the reference number of your file at the Aliens Office in the message field.

After having made the payment the sponsor shall transmit a copy of the proof of payment to the Aliens Office which will ask the competent diplomatic post to initiate the procedure for collecting the required blood samples in the country of origin. As soon as the Genetic Fingerprinting Laboratory receives these blood samples, it will contact the sponsor by phone in order to schedule an appointment for blood sampling.

On the day of the appointment the sponsor shall appear at the Blood Sampling Service of the Erasmus Clinic with all available official administrative documents, identity documents (identity card, passport), residence documents and the proof of payment.

The costs for the blood sampling abroad will be borne by the visa applicant.

Later stages of the procedure

The Aliens Office shall inform the sponsor of the DNA test results and take a decision on the application for a family reunification visa. The Laboratory shall send the original of the official and detailed analysis report to the sponsor.

The test data shall be used only for the purpose of this procedure and be kept in the Laboratory for possible additional testing.

Contact details of the Laboratory

Catherine Streydio
Doctor in Biomedical Sciences
Genetic Fingerprinting Laboratory
Erasmus Clinic
Lennikbaan 808
1070 Brussels
BELGIUM

☎ 00 32 2 555 41 94

No rights can be derived from the content of this brochure.
Aliens Office, 2008.