



*Embassy of the United States of America
Manila, Philippines*

DNA Testing General Information

IMPORTANT NOTE: This procedure applies only to individuals who will be tested either in the Philippines and/or in the United States. When a person is located outside the Philippines or the United States, the DNA kit should be sent to the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in that country.

If the parents of a child wish to submit DNA test results as evidence to support the application for a derivative citizenship, including Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA), they should advise a consular officer. All costs and related expenses (such as doctor's fees and the cost of transmitting testing materials and samples) must be borne exclusively by the applicant. However, do not initiate DNA testing unless it was recommended by the U.S. Embassy for your pending CRBA application. A DNA test done independently and not according to the State Department's procedures will not be accepted.

The Embassy accepts the results of DNA testing to establish parentage. The U.S. Department of State requires DNA tests to be processed by a laboratory that is accredited by the **American Association of Blood Banks (AABB)**.

The Embassy does not "require" DNA tests. DNA testing is strictly voluntary, even in questionable cases where parentage evidence is unavailable or unsatisfactory. The DNA testing option is normally recommended to applicants who have tried, but have been unable, to meet the legal requirement of establishing a biological relationship (filiation) on which nationality may be based.

Not all cases can be resolved by DNA testing. In cases where the lack of required physical presence in the United States by the transmitting parent prior to applicant's birth (transmission) or lack of legitimation means that filiation is irrelevant, DNA testing will NOT be offered to establish parentage.

The Embassy prefers the collection of DNA by buccal (cheek or mouth cavity) swab. For collection other than by buccal swab, advance approval from the State Department is needed, adding more time to the process.

DNA TESTING STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

1. The applicant **MUST choose and order the DNA test kit(s) from an accredited laboratory from the list found on the AABB website:** <http://www.aabb.org/sa/facilities/Pages/RTestAccrFac.aspx> **within the 90-day timeframe** provided by the American Citizen Services (ACS) Unit. The AABB is located at 4550 Montgomery Avenue Suite, Bethesda, MD 20814-2749, with the following contact information: telephone: (301) 907-6977, Fax: (301) 907-6895, Email address: aabb@aabb.org

After selection has been made, the applicant should:

- A. Request the necessary number of kits. **Note:** There is no case number for a CRBA/Citizenship claim and the case is recorded based on the applicant's name. ACS cannot give copies of DNA test results directly to applicants or other parties without express consent of the Department of State. Applicants should inquire with the selected laboratory about receiving a copy of the results directly should they wish to do so.
- B. Pay the laboratory for the kit and the testing
- C. Have kits shipped under their name to the following address:

**U.S. Embassy
Manila, Philippines**

Note: If the individual being tested is located outside the Philippines or the United States, you should send the kit to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate closest to the location of the individual being tested. You should also contact and advise that Embassy or Consulate before sending the kit (or advise us at ManilaDNA@state.gov).

For: CON/FPU

2. **Notify the American Citizen Services (ACS) Unit soon as you have ordered your DNA kits** by sending proof of your test kit(s) purchase to ACSInfoManila@state.gov. <mailto:ACSInfoManila@state.gov> In your email, please indicate the name of the applicant. This way, we can update the applicant's record.
3. **When testing kits arrive at the US Embassy the St. Luke's Extension Clinic in Manila will be notified.** (St. Luke's Extension Clinic is the only medical facility in the Philippines authorized by the U.S. Embassy to collect DNA specimen for citizenship purposes.)
4. **St. Luke's Extension Clinic will contact the applicant with the appointment details for the DNA specimen collection. NOTE: The DNA specimen collection will be conducted at the U.S. Embassy Manila.**
5. **The applicant must pay the collection fee of 1,500 pesos (Cash Basis Only) directly to St. Luke's Extension Clinic prior to the scheduled DNA specimen collection.**
6. **On the day of the DNA specimen collection: All participants must bring valid identification to the collection appointment.** Adults should bring a valid passport or valid government-issued I.D.; school-aged children should bring a valid passport/school-issued ID and for non-school aged children, bring a copy of the PSA birth certificate.
 - A. The applicant must make sure the collection fees have been paid.
 - B. The applicant should arrive at the U.S. Embassy in Manila (where the specimen collection will be conducted) 30 minutes prior to their appointment.
 - C. After the collection, the specimen will be shipped back to the laboratory.
 - D. The laboratory will send the test results directly to the U.S. Embassy Manila.
 - E. Upon receipt of the results, the ACS will take appropriate action on the application.

How long does the DNA testing process take? The DNA testing process (from ordering the DNA kits until receipt of the DNA test results) may take 6-8 weeks to complete. It requires the transmittal of testing kits and samples between the accredited DNA testing facility in the United States and the U.S. Embassy Manila. Upon receipt of the DNA results by the Embassy, your case will be reviewed. Please note that it may take up to 10 days for the kits to clear customs and security after they are marked as received by the shipping company. The issuance of a Consular

Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) and/or U.S. Passport may take an additional 4-6 weeks for those with favorable results.

Contact Information: For DNA-related inquiries please send an e-mail to ManilaDNA@state.gov.
For CRBA/Passport application status, please contact ACS Citizenship Unit via email at ACSInfoManila@state.gov.