



DNA testing in connection with a residence permit application

When you have submitted a residence permit application on the basis of family ties, you and your family members may be subjected to DNA testing. The test is required if documents concerning your biological relationship are unavailable or cannot be considered reliable, or if uncertainty remains over the biological relationship after an interview.

DNA analysis is instigated by the Finnish Immigration Service, and neither the applicant nor a relative living in Finland may ask for a DNA test.

Why is a DNA test required?

DNA analysis is used to determine with high degree of certainty whether persons are biologically related to each other. Determining a relationship with the help of DNA analysis is based on genes inherited from one generation to another. These genes are found in every person's DNA, and half of them are inherited from the biological father and the other half from the biological mother. The father and mother have in turn inherited their genes from their parents.

A DNA sample includes information about genetic characteristics. Your DNA structure will be compared with the DNA structure of your presumed family members. This comparison will provide information on whether you are related or not.

Giving your consent to DNA testing

DNA testing is voluntary, and written consent is required from you and your family members. If you or your family members refuse to take part in the testing, you may receive a negative decision on your residence permit matter if there are no other means of sufficiently establishing your family ties.

If we, exceptionally, require a blood sample from you, the sample will be taken by a health care professional and you are asked to sign a statement assuring that you have not had a blood transfusion within the last month.

How is a DNA sample collected?

A DNA test is not harmful to your health. A DNA sample is usually collected from the inside of your cheek using a soft brush. The collection of the sample does not hurt. Exceptionally, a blood sample may be taken for DNA analysis from your arm. This may pinch a little.

Decision to analyse a DNA sample

We will send the DNA sample for analysis to the National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL). Even when you have given your consent to sample collection and a sample has been taken from you, the Finnish Immigration Service will decide whether the sample should be analysed or not. The sample is not analysed if it is not necessary.

DNA testing when the person to be tested is in Finland

If you are in Finland, the sample will be taken at a service point of the Finnish Immigration Service. You will take the sample yourself. When testing a minor, the sample will be taken by the minor's parent, guardian, representative, personal advisor or social worker, for example. A public official of the Finnish Immigration Service may also exceptionally collect the sample. The Finnish Immigration Service will notify the persons invited to the testing of the date and location of the sample collection.

You need to show documents that prove your identity, such as your passport, driving licence or identity card. A public official of the Finnish Immigration Service will confirm your identity and supervise the sample collection.

DNA testing when the person to be tested is abroad

Your family members who are abroad will be tested at a Finnish mission (embassy or consulate) or at premises arranged by a Finnish mission. Your family members will collect their samples themselves. The sample of a minor will be collected by his or her parent or guardian, or for example a close relative. A public official of the Finnish mission or the Finnish Immigration Service may also exceptionally collect the sample.

Your family members need to show documents that prove their identity, such as their passport, driving licence or identity card. A public official of the Finnish mission or the Finnish Immigration Service will verify the identity of your family members and supervise the sample collection abroad.

Test results

The samples are examined at the National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL). An opinion based on the results will then be sent to the Finnish Immigration Service. We will have the results in 1–2 weeks after all persons that are to be tested have given their samples.

Test data will not be used for any purpose other than establishing the family ties required for issuing a residence permit. The samples and DNA analysis data will be destroyed after the residence permit matter has been concluded.

If necessary, we will reserve an appointment for you and your family members to present your views on the test results. DNA testing can sometimes reveal information on biological relationships that all family members have not been aware of. The DNA systems used to determine family ties do not reveal



anything about a person's outward characteristics, such as complexion, or any medical conditions, personality or abilities.

Limitations of DNA testing

If you and your family member are not biological relatives, this must be clearly stated when applying for a residence permit. We cannot establish such family ties with the help of DNA testing. Instead, we need other proof of actual family life from you.

The DNA analysis is paid by the State of Finland. However, you may be required to pay for the expenses of DNA testing if you have deliberately given false information on your family ties and you and your family members have been tested because of this.