



Information Leaflet on Genetic Test Arrangements for Verification of Parentage

When is genetic test applicable

A person applying for a Certificate of Entitlement, whether born within or out of wedlock, has to submit evidence on his claimed parentage with a Hong Kong permanent resident parent. Where the Director of Immigration (“the Director”) is not satisfied with the claimed parent and child relationship on the basis of documentary proof submitted by an applicant, he may request the applicant and the claimed parents to undergo a genetic test specified by him.

2. The Immigration Department will notify the applicant by letter, seeking consent from the applicant and his claimed parent(s) to undergo the genetic test. The applicant will be invited to give reasons in writing if he or his parents refuses to undergo such test. The Director may draw any inference from the failure of an applicant or his claimed parent(s) to undergo the specified genetic test as he considers proper and determines the application accordingly.

Genetic test arrangements

For applicants residing in the Mainland of China

3. Where a person applying for a Certificate of Entitlement and his claimed parents are requested by the Director to undergo a genetic test for verification of the claimed parentage, if the applicant is residing in the Mainland of China, he and, where applicable, his claimed parent residing in the Mainland of China shall attend the Exit-entry Administration Division of the Guangdong Provincial Public Security Department for specimen taking. The specimens will then be delivered to the Criminal Technology Division of the Guangdong Provincial Public Security Department for testing. The applicant’s claimed parent(s) who is residing in Hong Kong or outside the Mainland of China shall attend the Immigration Department for specimen taking. The specimens will then be delivered to the Hong Kong Government Laboratory for testing. The test data of the two laboratories will be exchanged for collaborative analysis independently. Findings of the analysis will again be exchanged for cross checking before the test reports are issued to the Immigration Department and the Exit-entry Administration Division of the Guangdong Provincial Public Security Department.

For applicants residing outside the Mainland of China

4. Where a person applying for a Certificate of Entitlement and his claimed parents are requested by the Director to undergo a genetic test for verification of the claimed parentage, if the applicant is residing outside the Mainland of China, he and his claimed parents shall attend the Immigration Department for specimen taking. The specimens will then be delivered to the Hong Kong Government Laboratory for testing. The test reports will be issued to the Immigration Department.

Confirmation of identity of persons to be tested and their consent to undergo the genetic test and to transfer of genetic data

5. A person to be tested shall complete a record form. The record form shall contain information including:

- (a) the name, sex, date and place of birth, photograph, particulars of proof of identity (if any), finger prints, place of residence and residential address of the person to be tested; and
- (b) signature of the person to be tested confirming his consent to undergo the test and, if applicable, to transfer of his genetic data for the collaborative analysis and cross checking between the two designated laboratories referred to in paragraph 3 above.

6. If the person to be tested is below the age of 18, the record form shall be signed by his guardian or any other person acceptable to the Director of Immigration, giving consent for the person to undergo the genetic test and if applicable, consent to transfer of genetic data.

Use and retention of tissue specimens

7. The tissue specimens taken from the applicant and his claimed parent(s) are to be used solely for the purpose of verification of the applicant's claimed parent and child relationship in connection with his Certificate of Entitlement application. The specimens are to be retained for a period not longer than necessary for such purpose.

Fees

8. For Certificate of Entitlement applicants residing in the Mainland of China, a fee of HK\$ 3,390 per application will be charged for the genetic test conducted in Hong Kong for the applicant's claimed parent(s). It should be paid upon specimen taking in the Immigration Department. The fee payable for the genetic test conducted in the Mainland of China for the applicant and, where applicable, his claimed parent shall be paid to the Mainland authorities as specified by the Mainland authorities.

9. For Certificate of Entitlement applicants residing outside the Mainland of China, a fee of HK\$ 4,540 per application will be charged for the genetic test conducted in Hong Kong for the applicant and his claimed parents. Payment of the fee should be made upon specimen taking in the Immigration Department.

10. Fee for the genetic test conducted in Hong Kong can be paid by cash, cashier order or crossed cheque made payable to “The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region”. However, the collection of fee does not constitute any guarantee or assurance that applicant’s Certificate of Entitlement application will be approved. The fee is non-refundable in any circumstances.

11. Applicants may apply for waiver of fee for the genetic test conducted in Hong Kong on grounds of financial hardship. Applications for waiver of fee shall be made in writing with supporting documents to the Immigration Department. Each case will be considered on its own merits.

Enquiries

12. If more information is required, please contact:

Information and Liaison Section, Immigration Department,
2/F, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.
Tel: (852) 2824 6111
Faxline: (852) 2877 7711
E-mail : enquiry@immd.gov.hk

Personal Data Privacy

Purpose of Collection

13. The personal data provided in the ‘Tissue specimen collection form’ will be used by the Immigration Department for one or more of the following purposes:

- (a) to process the related application for Certificate of Entitlement;
- (b) to administer/enforce relevant provisions of the Immigration Ordinance (Chapter 115) and Immigration Service Ordinance (Chapter 331), and to assist in the enforcement of any other Ordinances and Regulations by other government bureaux and departments through carrying out immigration control duties;
- (c) to process other person’s applications for immigration facilities in which the person to be tested is named as a sponsor or referee;
- (d) for statistics and research purposes on the condition that the resulting statistics or results of the research will not be made available in a form which will identify the data subjects or any of them; and
- (e) any other legitimate purposes as may be required, authorized or permitted by law.

The provision of personal data in the ‘Tissue specimen collection form’ is voluntary. If the person to be tested does not provide sufficient information, the Immigration Department may not be able to process the related application.

Classes of Transferees

14. The personal data provided by the person to be tested may be disclosed to government bureaux, departments and other organizations for the purposes mentioned above.

Access to Personal Data

15. The person to be tested has a right to request access to and correction of his/her personal data as provided for in sections 18 and 22 and Principle 6 in Schedule 1 of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Chapter 486). The person’s right of access includes the right to obtain a copy of his/her personal data provided in the ‘Tissue specimen collection form’ subject to payment of a fee.

16. Enquiries concerning the personal data collected by means of the ‘Tissue specimen collection form’, including making of access and corrections, should be addressed to:

Chief Immigration Officer (Certificate of Entitlement Section)
Immigration Department
6th Floor, Immigration Tower
7 Gloucester Road
Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Tel. No.: (852) 2829 4150

**Immigration Department
The Government of the Hong Kong
Special Administrative Region**