



ALPHABIOLABS
SETTING THE STANDARD

She's Not My Daughter - I want my money back

A father who gave up his home in a divorce deal is going back to court after discovering the child he loves is not his.

The test result was there in black and white but even so, James did not want to believe it: "Based on the genetic testing results ... the alleged father is excluded as the biological father of the child. The probability of paternity is 0%." In other words, his beloved 17-year-old daughter Ella wasn't his after all.

It was something James had suspected but the reality was crushing — he commissioned a second DNA test, with a different laboratory, hoping there might have been a mistake. That test, too, confirmed he could not be Ella's father.

The difficulties experienced by Ella's father in the article are not unusual. Nowadays, the widespread availability of information regarding DNA testing, and its power to reveal the truth, means that its use in such cases is increasing. However, those using DNA analysis must understand that the testing can reveal a 'skeleton-in-the-closet', whether people are aware of the possibility of its existence or not. As in the article, this can come as an unwelcome shock to those involved. DNA analysis reveals the truth and sometimes the truth hurts.

DNA tests became available in the late 1980s, a few years after the initial discovery of the groundbreaking technique of 'DNA fingerprinting' by Prof Sir Alec Jeffreys at the University of Leicestershire. There have been many changes to the process in

Monthly Competition Winner



Congratulations to **Ms Pam Winter** from Michael Alexander & Co who was the winner of the April Customer feedback Questionnaire Competition.

Ms Winter is now the owner of a Nokia Music Mobile Phone.

Don't forget to complete your forms

the intervening 20 or so years. Originally, DNA was extracted for the test from a blood sample taken from the donor by their GP or Practice Nurse. The testing required the use of some fairly harsh chemicals and the production of the DNA profile used radioactive isotopes and at least a week's exposure of a photographic film in a freezer at -70°C. The whole process took, on average, about four weeks.

Nowadays, all our analysis can be performed on DNA extracted from a simple, cotton wool mouth swab, a sampling process that is painless to the donor. Gratifyingly, the extraction is far less chemically-involved, there is no radioactive exposure required and the whole process typically takes 2 to 3 days. As for the costs, they have halved.

Athlete caught out again

Drug testing in sport-related areas is now of up-most importance, this is due to the increased number of ex professional athletes admitting to taking performance enhancing drugs and/or recreational (illicit) drugs during their careers.

This has led to change in drug testing regulations enforcing stricter guidelines enabling drug cheats to be caught as soon as possible.

A perfect example of this was a case involving a footballer called Adrian Mutu who recently tested positive for the drug, sibutramine

Sibutramine is a drug used for the treatment of obesity; however due to its cardiovascular risks it is suspended from use in the UK and Europe following a review by the European Medicines Agency.

As a result of this positive drug test; Adrian Mutu was suspended from competition for a period of nine months. This is not the first time he has failed a drug test back in 2004, he tested positive for cocaine and received a seven month ban.

Most sports cases utilise urine and/or blood sample to regulate and analyse drug abuse.

If this particular case had been analysed at Alpha Biolabs we would have taken a sample of hair and could have determined if the footballer in question had taken the drug once or if he had abused the drug in the long term, this would have given a

**for your chance to win one of
Alpha Biolabs' fantastic prizes.**



Upcoming Events

Family Law Conference – Manchester
Law Society – 06 May 2010
Charity Summer Ball – Crowne Plaza
Liverpool – 08 May 2010
Law 2010 – The Lowry Hotel
Manchester – 19-20 May 2010

Great News

**AlphaBiolabs' has received news from
UKAS that we have passed our
assessment and are now accredited to
ISO17025 in paternity and sibling
verification.**

ISO 17025 is the internationally recognised standard for testing and calibration laboratories. The standard contains all of the requirements that testing and calibrations laboratories have to meet if they wish to demonstrate that they operate a quality system, are

more definitive drug abuse history.

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technically competent and are able to generate technically valid results. ISO 17025 is the only standard to address all of these issues. Laboratories accredited to this standard are able to provide their clients with a measurable level of assurance.

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