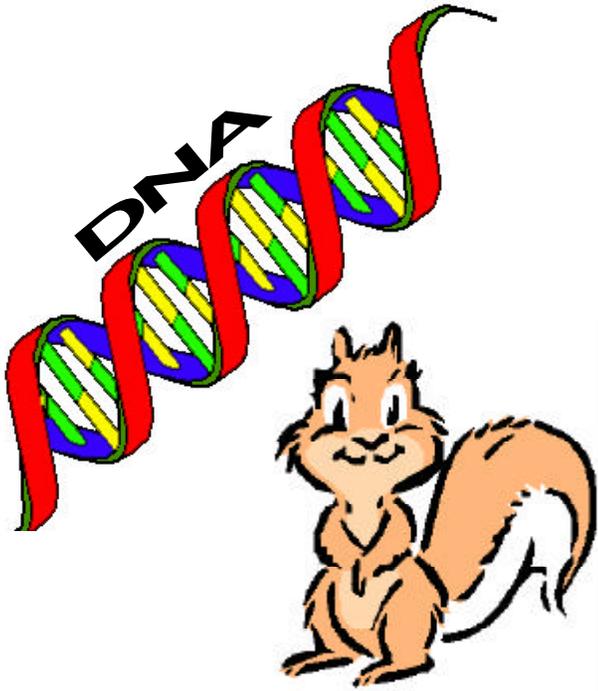


# Ch\*I\*P

## Child Identification Program



A Service Provided to Parents by  
Your Local Hospital  
and  
Kansas Office of the Attorney  
General

Ch\*I\*P gives parents or guardians the option of having their child's DNA sample available in an emergency. In the event of your child's disappearance, his or her DNA sample would then be available to law enforcement. In addition to providing information in the case of kidnappings or parental abductions, the sample could help with identification in cases of accidents or natural disasters.

This concept is similar to programs in which children are fingerprinted. Storing a DNA sample from your baby allows you to have one more piece of information you

could give to law enforcement in the event of an accident or the disappearance of your child. In a situation as terrifying as a missing child, you would want to provide all the information you possibly could.

Private companies have recognized the profit potential involved with this technology and several are now marketing DNA kits for home use. Some of these companies recommend that parents send in their child's sample so that the DNA test can be performed immediately. In addition to the cost of the kit, several of these companies are charging \$75 to \$100 to perform the test and may also offer to store the samples for a fee.

*Ch\*I\*P offers a free alternative to these services. Participation in the Ch\*I\*P allows you, the parent or guardian, to store the DNA sample yourself. By storing the DNA sample yourself, you can be best assured that no one else will have access to it.*

Your baby's DNA will not change over the course of his or her life. The methods used in DNA testing, however, are changing rapidly. In the unlikely event that DNA testing would need to be performed, a law enforcement laboratory would perform the test using the technology current at that time.

In addition, a new type of paper used for collection of bloodstains has recently been developed. This new paper, dubbed 'FTA' paper, has been specially treated to help the DNA bind to the paper. The use of FTA paper should make storage of samples safer and less likely to break down.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Question:** What is DNA?

**Answer:** DNA stands for deoxyribonucleic acid. It is often referred to as the building block of life. DNA contains the genetic information that makes each human unique. With the exception of identical twins, everyone's DNA is different.

**Question:** What is involved in the DNA collection process?

**Answer:** All that is required is a small needle prick that will allow a few drops of blood to be obtained from your baby and placed on the special stain card. This can be done at the same time other routine blood work is being performed by the hospital.

**Question:** An inked footprint was taken from my baby at birth. Isn't that a good method of identification?

**Answer:** An inked footprint could be useful in identifying an infant who was abducted shortly after birth and then quickly recovered. In most cases, the tiny feet of newborns are full of creases and wrinkles. As a baby grows, these creases and wrinkles will decrease and the details of the footprint ridges will become more prominent. Because of these changes, the footprint taken at birth might not be useful in identifying an older child. Having a blood sample could be a valuable addition to identification efforts.

**Question:** I thought DNA could be obtained from saliva. Why is it necessary to use blood?

**Answer:** DNA test results can be obtained from saliva. However, for purposes of long-term storage, blood is the best option. The normal bacteria found in the mouth can cause the DNA in the saliva to break down over time. By storing a blood sample, you significantly reduce the possibility that the sample may be too broken down to perform DNA testing.

**Question:** Who else has access to this blood sample?

**Answer:** No one. Only one blood sample will be taken and this sample will be given to the parent or guardian for storage and safekeeping. Neither Stormont-Vail Healthcare nor the Kansas Bureau of Investigation have access to the blood sample obtained for the purposes of Ch\*IP\*. Keep it in a safe place.

**Question:** What purpose would a DNA blood sample serve if my child were missing?

**Answer:** It is important to understand that just having a DNA blood sample does not keep your child safe. In the event of a child's disappearance, however, the DNA sample you have stored could be useful to law enforcement or disaster relief officials for purposes of comparison.

**Question:** Must DNA testing be done at the time the blood sample is taken from my baby?

**Answer:** No. It is not necessary to perform DNA testing at this time. This blood sample is only a method of keeping a sample of your baby's DNA available in the case of an emergency.

**Question:** Why shouldn't DNA testing be done at the time the blood sample is taken from my baby?

**Answer:** Your baby's DNA will not change over the course of his or her lifetime. DNA testing methods, however, are changing rapidly. The type of test performed today might be completely obsolete a few years from now. In the event that your children were kidnapped at 10 years of age, the results obtained using today's technology might be totally without value. By storing the bloodstain card without analyzing it, you can be certain that the technology in place at the time of need would be available.

**Question:** Do I have to store this bloodstain card under special conditions?

**Answer:** The bloodstain card must be stored in the special foil barrier pouch provided. After being sealed in the pouch, it can be kept at room temperature. Once sealed, this pouch should not be opened unless DNA testing needs to be done. You might consider keeping the bloodstain card in the sealed pouch in the same place you keep other important papers, such as a safe deposit box.

**Question:** How much does this cost?

**Answer:** There is no cost. This service is being provided to the parents of newborns by your hospital and the Kansas Office of the Attorney General, free of charge.

## **IF YOUR CHILD IS MISSING**

First, contact all family members or friends who may have seen your child.

Immediately call the police or sheriff. They will take a complete report and enter this information into national computers to help find your child.

Be ready to provide a fingerprint card, a birth certificate, a recent photo, medical and dental records, and your Ch\*I\*P sample. Keep physical descriptions up-to-date.

Call the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (1-800-843-5678).



***“Working Together to  
Keep Children Safe and Healthy”***

## Safety Tips for Young Children

- Never leave children unattended; never leave children in a car.
- Any child under four years of age riding in the front seat of the car should ride in an approved car seat.
- Infants under 20 pounds should ride in a rear-facing car carrier or shell.
- Household carriers and car beds won't protect a child.
- Notice when someone shows your child a great deal of attention and find out why.
- Take photographs of your child each year (four times a year for children under age 2).
- Have a set plan with your child outlining what he/she should do if you become separated when away from home.

Interview new babysitters, ask for references and check them.

