

Information Sheet

Tips and Information for DNA Mass Screening

Why is the Police carrying out the DNA Mass Screening?

On Friday, the 12th of January 2018, at about 09.00 a.m. a dead infant was discovered by a stroller in Pfingstbergweiher. All the efforts of the Police to identify the infant's mother with other measures have brought until now no results. The Police assumes that the infant's mother was concealing her pregnancy.

With the help of a DNA test it can be established who is the mother of the dead infant; resp. the DNA test allows to eliminate suspects.

Who is invited to participate in the saliva tests?

During the first stage all women born between 01.01.1983 and 01.01.2004 and residing at the time around 01.01.2018 in the Mannheim districts: Casterfeld, Mallau, Pfingstberg and Hochstätt, were asked to help us by participating in the saliva tests. In the second stage of the investigations (current stage) the age limit has been extended. It includes all women residing in the above named city districts and born between 1975 and 1982.

In addition to that the area of residence is expanded to cover also the district of Mannheim-Seckenheim including Suebenheim. Here it relates to all women born between 1975 and 2004.

What is the reason for selecting these age groups and specifying these locations rather than choosing other ones?

The results of forensic research and criminal investigations formed the basis for the criteria chosen by the Police and the Public Prosecution, with the adherence to the strict principles of appropriateness, of likelihood for reliable results and of practicability.

The age groups and the included localities were determined – being thoroughly considered – by the Police and the Public Prosecution Mannheim and fully comply with these criteria.

What I need to bring when attending the DNA Mass Screening?

Please, have your ID-card or passport on you, so that your personal details can be verified without any doubt.

Am I a suspect?

No. You are not under suspicion. But by giving your saliva sample you help us to reduce the circle of the suspects. The more women go through the DNA Mass Screening, the smaller is the number of remaining potential mothers. The investigations therefore will be restricted to the remaining persons.

Which law regulations are there for a DNA Mass Screening?

The legal basis is provided in § 81h of the StPO (German Code of criminal procedure). According to that regulation – under certain circumstances, which in this case are present, and upon the court authorization – it is permitted to collect saliva samples from persons meeting particular applicable examination characteristics (i.e. age and sex), and only on their written consent.

What is the DNA Mass Screening procedure?

With a sterile cotton wool swab a saliva sample will be taken from your mouth. This procedure is completely painless.

What happens with the saliva sample taken from me?

The sample with your body cell will be anonymous and will go as examination material to selected and with regard to their reliability particularly tested forensic laboratories for the purposes of identifying your DNA identification pattern. The examination material will be destroyed once it is no longer needed for matching search in the investigation of this criminal case.

Will my DNA identification pattern (DNA profile) be stored?

Your DNA profile will only be kept in a file (not in a database) until the speculative search for matching to the dead infant's DNA has been completed and if it results negative.

After that your DNA profile will be deleted. Such a short time for keeping your DNA profile on our files is however necessary in order to enable us to do the matching search.

I have already a criminal offence. Will my DNA profile now be filed with the police to be applied retrospectively?

No! Even if you have already a criminal offence, your DNA profile obtained in this investigation will not be retained or recorded retrospectively, neither will it be used for any other speculative searches.

Will my personal details that I give to the Police be retained?

Your personal details (first and second name, date and place of birth) and the fact of your voluntary participation will be documented in the investigation files of the Police and the Public Prosecution – according to §§ 161, 163 StPO (German Code of criminal procedure).

The parts of the folders and the recorded data in the files relating to you will be destroyed or deleted once they are no longer needed for investigation of the crime.

What can I do if I am prevented from attending the appointment for the DNA Mass Screening and nevertheless I would like to participate in the test?

In such a case we ask you to send your email message to the Special Commission (Soko) to the following e-mail address:

mannheim.kk.renatus@polizei.bwl.de

A member of the Soko-team Renatus will contact you in order to find another possibility which would enable you to give your saliva sample in some other way.

We appeal to you to participate in this test. Thus you actively help to investigate the circumstances of this complicated case.

**Yours sincerely
Your Mannheim Police**