

January 30, 2021

Ms. «motherfirstname» «motherlastname»  
«address1»  
«address2»  
«city», «state» «zip»

Dear Ms. «motherlastname»:

Recently, you completed a telephone interview for the National Birth Defects Prevention Study to help us learn about environmental and medical causes of birth defects. The study is being conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

To better understand genetic factors that may contribute to birth defects, we are asking parents to collect cheek cells from themselves and their infants using the enclosed kit. Collection of these samples requires rubbing a soft brush on the inner surface of the cheek; this procedure causes little to no discomfort.

You or your family's participation is voluntary and you may withdraw your samples at any time. Please read the enclosed information called "Informed Consent for Cheek Cell Samples". If you choose to participate in the study, sign the consent form and return it with the completed cheek cell kit. A second copy of the consent form is enclosed for your records. Also enclosed is a \$20.00 money order to thank you for your time. To compensate you for the time required to complete the entire study, an additional \$20 money order will be sent to you after you return the cheek cell samples.

If you wish to have more information or have any questions, please contact Dr. Sarah Tinker at 1-404-498-4315.

**Thank you for helping us to better understand and prevent birth defects.**

Sincerely,

Sarah C. Tinker, PhD, MPH  
Principal Investigator  
National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road NE, Mail Stop E-86  
Atlanta, GA 30333

Enclosures