

Ancestry.com under fire from privacy defenders for owning data from your genetic test

Don't use the AncestryDNA testing service without actually reading the Ancestry.com Terms of Service and Privacy Policy. According to these legal contracts, you still own your DNA, but so does Ancestry.com.

The family history website Ancestry.com is selling a new DNA testing service called AncestryDNA. But the DNA and genetic data that Ancestry.com collects may be used against "you or a genetic relative." According to its privacy policies, Ancestry.com takes ownership of your DNA forever. Your ownership of your DNA, on the other hand, is limited in years.

It seems obvious that customers agree to this arrangement, since all of them must "click here to agree" to these terms. But, how many people really read those contracts before clicking to agree? And how many relatives of Ancestry.com customers are also reading?

There are three significant provisions in the AncestryDNA Privacy Policy and Terms of Service to consider on behalf of yourself and your genetic relatives: (1) the perpetual, royalty-free, world-wide license to use your DNA; (2) the warning that DNA information may be used against "you or a genetic relative"; (3) your waiver of legal rights.

Customers must understand that turning over their DNA means a loss of complete ownership and control. Ancestry.com customers should also know they're giving up the genetic privacy of themselves and their relatives.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: Ancestry.com takes DNA ownership rights from customers and their relatives