

Who Owns the Patent on the Genetic Code for Your Proteins?

With the recent decoding of the human genetic sequence (the Human Genome Project), it is feasible that in the future everyone could have their own DNA sequenced. This would give a "DNA fingerprint" of all the genes and, therefore, all the proteins a person synthesizes. Who will decide who should have access to this genetic information? Is genetic information private or is it important for the public good?

- To Do** For each issue listed below, provide a three-part answer that includes (a) a supporting argument for when, if ever, the genetic code should be available; (b) a supporting argument for when, if ever, the genetic code should not be available; and (c) an explanation of any conditions that would be an exception to your position.

Issue: Should medical authorities get your genetic fingerprint?

Issue: Should insurance agencies get your genetic fingerprint?

Issue: Should the military get your genetic fingerprint?

Issue: Should insurance agencies get your genetic fingerprint?

Issue: Should prospective spouses get your genetic fingerprint?

Issue: Should employers get your genetic fingerprint? Should some employers have the right to the genetic fingerprint and others not?

Issue: Should scientists conducting gene therapy/corrective therapy get your genetic fingerprint? Should you get royalties on your genetic information if it is used to correct faulty or inferior DNA?