GEDmatch.Com Terms and Policy Statement

Revised August 18, 2017

GEDmatch purpose

GEDmatch exists to provide DNA and genealogy tools for comparison and research purposes. It is supported entirely by users, volunteers, and researchers. DNA and Genealogical research, by its very nature, requires the sharing of information. Because of that, users participating in this site should expect that their information will be shared with other users.

Privacy

We ask that you provide real names for registration and data upload. In addition, you have the option of providing an alias for either login or data. If an alias has been provided, it will be displayed in place of the real name along with results. If your DNA is linked to your genealogy, and only one or the other uses an alias, it may be possible for users to see the real name in the linked data.

In today's world, there are real dangers of identity theft, credit fraud, etc. We try to strike a balance between these conflicting realities and the need to share information with other users. In the end, if you require absolute privacy and security, we must ask that you do not upload your data to GEDmatch. If you already have it here, please delete it.

Security

The data you upload to GEDmatch is placed into a database to make it accessible to other users through the various applications on this site. The DNA and genealogical data is not encrypted. DNA data is compressed in a proprietary format which makes it unreadable without a great deal of effort. Genealogy data is stored as plain text in a database. We encrypt your login password before putting it in our database. We cannot tell what your password is. However, there have been cases in the news of encrypted data being hacked and decoded. Be aware that may be a possibility on this or any other site. We take measures to ensure that only registered users have access to your results, but those measures have not been and never will be perfect. Direct access to your data is available to GEDmatch personnel, including volunteers, on a need to know basis.

Research

We may use your data in our own research, to develop or improve applications.

Email addresses

Everybody who uploads files to this site must provide a valid email address for the principal contact. It provides log-in verification and allows the administrator to contact them if necessary. It also provides a mechanism to verify your identity if you want to contact us. Your email address and name may also be displayed along with any matches to your DNA or genealogy. Some users obtain an email address separate from their primary email for this purpose.

GEDCOMs

GEDCOMs uploaded to GEDmatch.Com remain the property of the person who uploaded it. When you upload your genealogy, you will be provided a unique ID number for that GEDCOM. If you ever want your GEDCOM removed from the site, you may do so yourself by clicking on the 'Manage your resources' link on your home page. If you need assistance deleting a GEDCOM, contact the site administrator at GEDmatch@Gmail.Com .

Genealogy research requires the exchange of information. For that reason, all GEDCOMs uploaded may be viewed, searched or compared by any GEDmatch user. If you are concerned about the privacy of living individuals in your GEDCOM, you should use a genealogy program on your own computer to 'privatize' your GEDCOM prior to uploading it to GEDmatch. This usually involves changing the names of living individuals to 'LIVING' or something similar.

We take steps to prevent your genealogy information from being available to the casual web surfer or to the search engines (e.g. Google). However, we cannot guarantee that your information will never be accessed by unintended means. If you require absolute security, please do not upload your data to GEDmatch. If you have already uploaded it, please delete it.

You may be given the opportunity to link your genealogy data with your DNA data. This is a powerful tool and we encourage people to use it. It also provides a means of access to your genealogy to people who may have no genealogy of their own loaded on GEDmatch.Com .

DNA Data

Raw DNA data uploaded to GEDmatch.Com remains the property of the person who uploaded it. When you upload a file, a kit number will be assigned at the end of the upload process. This number is unique to the individual DNA upload, and will be used on the pages of this site to identify your data. If you wish to contact the site adminsitrator regarding your data, you must provide the kit number associated with your data. If you ever wish to have your data removed from the site, you may use the link to 'Manage your resources' available on your home page. It is possible that an old kit number may be reassigned to another user's uploaded data in the future if you delete your kit. No means are provided on this site to make DNA data available for download.

There are 3 classes of DNA data on this site: 'Private', 'Public' and 'Research'. You may be asked to select which category you want to be in when you upload your DNA data. If you ever want to change the category, use the link to 'Manage your DNA resources' on your home page.

'Private' DNA data is not available for comparisons with other people. It may be usable in some utilities that do not depend on comparisons with other DNA.

'Public' DNA data is available for comparison to anybody using the various tools provided for that purpose. Comparison results, including your kit number, name and email, may be displayed for anybody to see.

'Research' DNA data is available for one-to-one comparison to other Public or Research DNA. It is not shown on other people's 'one-to-many' results lists. The raw data that you uploaded is not made available.

By default, your raw DNA data is not available to any user of the site - not even you. There may be options where you may join a 'sharing pool' which has the potential for disclosing additional information about you or your data. If you choose to join a sharing pool, you should carefully read the conditions and disclaimers associated with that sharing pool.

Use of Results

The nature of genealogy research requires the exchange of information. That use must also be tempered by respect for the rights and privacy of other individuals. Anybody found to be using this site in ways not consistent with this principle of human decency will be subject to an immediate ban with all their data removed. Examples include, but are not specifically limited to, spam mailing lists or publishing other people's results or personal information without their permission. This principle also applies to the related or non-related persons included in genealogy files or other data uploaded to this site. Determination of any violation of this principle will be at the sole discretion of GEDmatch administrators.

While the results presented on this site are intended solely for genealogical research, we are unable to guarantee that users will not find other uses. If you find the possibility unacceptable, please remove your data from this site.

It is our policy to never provide your genealogy, DNA information, or email address to 3rd parties, except as noted above.

Accuracy of Results

The analysis and comparison results presented on this site are

provided 'as is' and no representations are made regarding their accuracy or usability. Changes in software and analysis tools may be made from time to time that could change results from those previously provided. The operators of this site are not responsible for the consequences of using the information provided on this site.

Termination of Service

Anybody wishing to have their data removed from the GEDmatch database may do so themselves by following the 'Manage your resources' link on their home page. Contact site administrators to have your login profile removed. GEDmatch administrators may remove any data from the database, for any reason, at any time, either with or without notice. Any or all services at GEDmatch.Com may be terminated at any time, without notice, for any reason, at the sole discretion of the GEDmatch administrators.

Cookies

Cookies may be used by this site to enable certain privacy and log-in capabilities. This site may contain links to advertising placed by third party sites. Advertising by third party sites may be placing and reading cookies on your browser, or using web beacons to collect information, in the course of ads being served on this site. We have no control over how 3rd party sites may utilize cookies. If you feel that a 3rd party site is engaging in unethical or illegal use of this capability, please notify us so that we may take appropriate action to remove that link.

Loss of data

GEDmatch operators will not be held responsible for the loss of data, whether as a result of mechanical failure, software malfunction, human error, or any other means.

Future

We cannot predict what the future holds for DNA or genealogy research. We cannot predict what the future will be for GEDmatch. It is possible that, in the future, GEDmatch will merge with, or operations will be transferred to other individuals or entities. If that happens, the operating personnel at GEDmatch will change. That event would provide access to your data by people not currently involved in GEDmatch operations. If this possibility is not acceptable to you, please do not upload your data to GEDmatch. If you have already uploaded your data, please remove it from GEDmatch.

Contact GEDmatch

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