

Embryo Donation Fact Sheet

For Donors

Our Primary Goal: *To offer a viable option for the unused embryos you've created. Your decision to donate will benefit an infertile couple yearning for a child. The recipient family will provide a stable, loving environment for the child, and give you the kind of input into the selection process you desire (including the option of maintaining contact throughout the years) .*

Those of you who have gone through in-vitro fertilization may recall the pain of thinking you may never have children. Hopefully, through reproductive technology, your fears have now been replaced with the joy of having children. If your remaining frozen embryos are in storage-- and your family is complete-- you may be faced with the dilemma of deciding what to do with them.

There are thousands of couples who are experiencing the sadness of not being able to conceive. Some of these couples are not candidates for in-vitro fertilization or perhaps they cannot afford the cost of the IVF process. The solution may be embryo donation. This is where you can help

Who are we?

The Adoption Center for Family Building is a not-for-profit, non-sectarian licensed adoption agency in Illinois and Indiana. We have developed an *Embryo Donation Program* to assist both donors and recipient families. The program operates in tandem with local fertility centers and attorneys specializing in infertility law. The Adoption Center offers social, psychological and educational services surrounding the embryo donation process. Free consultations/counseling services are available to individuals and couples considering donating their embryos.

What is the process?

The first step is to schedule an initial consultation with one of our Directors to discuss your options and gain a better understanding of the process, examining both the risks and benefits. If you decide to become an embryo donor, you will be asked to fill out an application, provide medical and genetic history, and complete FDA required testing and screening through a medical facility.

The next step is to match with a recipient family through an anonymous or an open donation process-- where you may meet the intended parents. During this same time period, you will be instructed to inform the clinic --where your frozen embryos are being stored-- that you are donating them to an infertile couple and working with our Center. They will probably require you to sign a medical record release form and a waiver/release of liability form. Once this paperwork is completed, you will want to consult with an attorney specializing in collaborative reproduction.

What is the relationship between the donor and the recipient family?

Depending on your wishes, the relationship between the donor and the recipient family may be anonymous or there may be contact (including one or more meetings). You may want to think

about whether there are characteristics that you want to look for in a recipient family. You will also decide whether you want to maintain ongoing contact with the family you helped to create.

What about the storage costs?

Once a donor agreement has been signed and you are matched with a recipient family, you will no longer be responsible for the cost of storing your embryos. You may even be reimbursed for prior months of storing the donated embryos.

What is the chance of embryos successfully implanting?

According to the National Embryo Donation Center (NEDC), an average of about 31% of embryos successfully implant after transfer. This statistic comes from the CDC and is from a collection of data from all reporting assisted reproductive technology clinics nationwide. The overall pregnancy rate per transfer is 48% according to NEDC. However, not all embryos survive the freeze/thaw process, and thawing of your embryos may not lead to a transfer. This process still offers tremendous possibilities for infertile couples. However, seek counsel from your doctor about your individual situation.

Is there a cost to me?

There are no fees for embryo donors. The recipient families cover all costs.

Are donors paid for their embryos?

Donors are not paid, however donors may be reimbursed for some or all of the expenses that were incurred with storage of their embryos.

Can I decide to whom my embryos will go?

Yes. Based on shared criteria and mutual consent, the embryos will be given to the family with whom you have matched.

Are the recipient families screened?

Yes, the recipient families are medically and psychologically screened. The Adoption Center will educate and counsel each family, thereby supporting their ability to parent a child who comes to them through embryo donation.

Will I be responsible for my embryos, or have parental rights?

Prior to an embryo transfer, you will consult with an attorney specializing in collaborative reproduction. Your attorney will apprise you of your legal rights and responsibilities regarding the donated embryos. Upon request, the Adoption Center staff will refer you to experienced attorneys specializing in this area of the law.

Could the children from the embryo donation inadvertently meet their siblings and reproduce?

In our large society, the risk is small and knowing the recipient family would further minimize any risk that may exist. The Center will maintain records for years to come, in case information needs to be

retrieved by the child or parents.

How do we get started?

Call our Skokie office Monday through Friday from 9am to 4:30pm at **847-674-3231**. Ask to speak with one our Directors (Tobi or Maggie) who will answer your questions and/or schedule a free initial consultation to discuss the process of embryo donation.

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