



QUESTIONS TO ASK (36)

If you are considering donating frozen excess embryos to an individual/couple or if you are considering using donated embryos, consider the following questions:

Questions for the embryo donor to consider:

- Have you seen an experienced counselor to be sure you and your partner agree on donating your embryos to someone else?
- Have you and your partner both signed a contract with the clinic?
- Is there a clear legal agreement between you and the recipients with a clear relinquishment of legal rights to the embryos and the release of liability for any harm that may result from any adverse consequences resulting from the donation?
- Does the clinic where your embryos are stored require a wait period after the contract forms have been signed, before the donation is activated?
- Can you revoke your consent? If so, at what point in the process?
- Have you determined how much personal information you are willing to have shared with the recipient?
- How does the clinic “match” donors and recipients?
- Would you prefer to meet recipients if that were an option to you?
- Have the recipients received psychological screening and consultation with respect to this donation?
- Do you feel that you have sufficient information about the recipients to make an informed decision regarding donation of your embryos?
- Are you willing to be contacted by the recipients in the case of medical issues relating to the child?
- What, if any, information do you want to be told regarding the recipient’s pregnancy or birth resulting from your donated embryos?
- Do you want to have any contact with a child born from your donated embryos?
- What will be done with any embryos that are not used by the recipient?
- Will the clinic receive any financial benefit from your donation?
- Are you and your partner required to undergo screening and testing for communicable disease (as outlined in the donor guidelines for the *American Society for Reproductive Medicine*) at least 6 months after the date the embryos were frozen?
- Will the recipient couple pay for any required retesting or counseling?

Questions for the intended recipients to consider:

- What was the age of the donor at the time her eggs were retrieved to create the embryo?
- Did the donating couple have male factor infertility?
- Was intracytoplasmic sperm insemination (ICSI) used during the IVF cycle?
- Has preimplantation genetic diagnosis been done on any of the frozen embryos?
- Were any children born to the donor from the batch of embryos that are now being donated?
- How much medical information on the donors is available?
- Would you prefer to meet the donors if that were an option to you?
- Are the embryos from a cycle in which donor-egg or donor sperm was used?
- Will issues of disclosure to the child, family and friends be discussed during appointments with the

counselor?-

- Has the donor couple been screened and tested for communicable diseases after the embryos have been frozen for at least 6 months?
- As the recipient, are you required to see a counselor? If so, to whom does the clinic refer?
- What type of uterine preparation is used prior to embryo transfer?
- Is a mock cycle done prior to the embryo transfer to document that the uterine preparation is adequate?
- What type of progesterone (injections, suppositories, vaginal cream) is used for luteal support after embryo transfer?
- How many embryos are usually transferred?
- When should you start folic acid and prenatal vitamins?
- What, if any, kind of information will be written in the medical records regarding the fact that donated embryos were used?
- What does the clinic charge for embryo donation IVF?
- If embryos do not survive the thaw, is there any financial adjustment made?
- Is there a mechanism through which you can contact the donor in the case of a medical emergency with the child?
- Is there a legal agreement signed by the donors relinquishing all rights and responsibilities to the embryos and releasing you from any liability for any adverse consequences?

Resources:

- American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), www.asrm.org
- Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology (SART), www.sart.org

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