

Cambridge IVF

Information for potential sperm donors – the law

Thank you for expressing an interest in becoming a sperm donor. The following information is intended to give you an overview of the legal implications of sperm donation. Further information regarding becoming a donor is available on our website.

What does the law say about sperm donation?

Will I be paid for donating my sperm?

It is illegal for donors to be paid in the UK. However, sperm donors can receive compensation of up to £35 per clinic visit. If you were to enter into the donor screening process and we found you were not eligible to donate due to medical reasons, we can offer you up to £35 compensation for each of the appointments you have attended so far.

Is sperm donation anonymous?

The recipient of your samples will have access to all the **non-identifying** information that you provide on your donor information form, if they wish to see this. Any individual conceived as a result of your donation may apply for this non-identifying information from the HFEA when they turn 16 year of age. Once they reach the age of 18, the HFEA are legally obliged to also release your **identifying information** to them if requested. Identifying details given would include the following:

- Your full name (and any previous names)
- Your date of birth
- Your town or district of birth
- Your last known postal address (or your address at the time of donor registration)

It's also important be aware that there has been an increase in the use of direct to customer DNA testing, genetic matching services offered by websites and social networking. Even if you are not signed up to a DNA matching site yourself, a close genetic relative may be. This means that people who are donor conceived may not be limited to finding out identifying information about their donor only through the HFEA and there is the potential for you to become identifiable at any time.

Do I have any say about who my sperm is donated to and how it is used?

Your donated samples can be used for a range of fertility treatments including Intra-Uterine Insemination (IUI), *In Vitro* Fertilisation (IVF) and Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI). There are some circumstances where you can specify conditions for the use of your sperm, or who it can be donated to. For example you may wish for your sperm to be used by a named person only. However if you are an anonymous donor, you may not be accepted to

donate if you wish to impose certain conditions restricting the use of your sample to certain groups of patients, as Cambridge IVF will only provide a service in line with the Equality Act (2010).

Can I get any information about a child created from my sperm?

Yes, although the information available to you is limited. Through contacting Cambridge IVF and/or the HFEA you can find out the number, gender and year of birth of any child or children conceived from your donated sperm.

How many children could be born from my donation?

Legally, a UK donor's sperm can only be used to create a maximum of **10 families**. A 'family' is defined as the recipient to be treated and their partner (if they have one) and any existing legal child or children of either partner.

If you consent to this, we may be able to freeze any good quality embryos, created using your donated sperm, which have not been used for fresh embryo transfer in the recipient's current treatment cycle. This would allow your recipient to have further treatment to try for a sibling or have another attempt at treatment using a frozen embryo if unsuccessful following the first attempt at treatment.

Occasionally where recipients have finished their families but still have embryos (created using your donated sperm) remaining in storage we may be asked if these embryos are able to be donated. If the maximum number of families stated on your consent has not been reached, these remaining embryos could be donated to another recipient for their use in fertility treatment.

Whose child will it be legally? What will be put on the birth certificate?

If you donate your sperm at an HFEA licensed fertility clinic in the UK, the recipient(s) are the legal parent/s of the child and they therefore put their name(s) on the birth certificate. As the donor, you would have no legal relationship with or financial responsibilities towards the child.

Can I withdraw from the donation?

Yes. You as a donor are allowed to withdraw from treatment at any time for any reason prior to the use of embryo(s) created with your sperm, i.e. up to the point at which the embryo is placed in the recipient's womb. You are free to withdraw from the donation process at any time by contacting us and notifying us of your wish to withdraw consent. Where such a request is made we will contact you asking you to complete a formal consent form in which you can formally withdraw consent.

Where can I find more support and information?

Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority (HFEA)

UK's government regulator responsible for making sure fertility clinics and research centres comply with the law. This website provides free, clear and impartial information on UK fertility clinics, IVF and other types of fertility treatment, and donation.

Website: www.hfea.gov.uk

Tel: 02072 918 200

Sperm, Egg And Embryo Donation (SEED) Trust

A registered charity, the SEED website provides a hub of clear and practical information about donating and receiving eggs, sperm and embryos in the UK.

Website: www.seedtrust.org.uk

Donor Conception Network

A supportive network of more than 2,000 mainly UK based families with children conceived with donated sperm, eggs or embryos, those considering or undergoing donor conception procedures; and donor conceived people.

Website: www.dcnetwork.org

Tel: 02072 782 608

British Infertility Counselling Association (BICA)

A registered charity and the UK's leading professional fertility counselling association. BICA is recognised by both the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority and the British Fertility Society. The website includes a list of counsellors able to provide specialist fertility counselling to both patients and donors.

Website: www.bica.net

Fertility Network UK

The UK's leading patient-focused fertility charity, able to provide free and impartial support, advice, information and understanding for anyone affected by fertility issues. The website gives access to a community of people affected by fertility problems and provides a free Support Line if required.

Website: www.fertilitynetworkuk.org

Tel: 01424 732 361

Fertility Friends

An active self-help community for people experiencing infertility. This site features a forum of message boards and live chat rooms on a range of topics.

Website: www.fertilityfriends.co.uk

Contact us:

We hope you have found this booklet informative. We realise we may not have covered all of your questions so if you do have any other queries we are here to help so please contact us via any of the means below:

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Kefford House
Maris Lane
Trumpington
Cambridge
CB2 9LG

Tel: 01223 349010

Email: enquiries@cambridgeivf.org.uk

Website: www.cambridgeivf.org.uk



For more information about getting to Cambridge IVF please see our website:
<https://www.cambridge-ivf.org.uk/contacting-us-and-getting-referred/getting-here>

Smoking.



We are smoke-free: smoking is not allowed anywhere on the hospital campus. For advice and support in quitting, contact your GP or the free NHS stop smoking helpline on 0800 169 0 169.

Other formats:



Help accessing this information in other formats is available. To find out more about the services we provide, please telephone 01223 256998 or visit our patient information help page:
<https://www.cuh.nhs.uk/contact-us/accessible-information>



Document history

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01223 349010
May 2023/May 2024
*Information for Potential
Sperm Donors – The Law*
V1.0

Patient information A4 template v19