**What would you like other people considering being donors to know that you have learned?**

(194 total)

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| # | Responses |
| **1** | It was and continues to be such a rewarding experience. |
| **2** | Life is an adventure. The survey questions on religion don't have a place for me, which is atheist |
| **3** | There will always be a level of uncertainty that you just have to accept. During donation, you are unsure whether it will work. After donation, you will always be unsure how many genetic offspring are out in the world. |
| **4** | Remember you're a second-hand patient, that the risks are real and the clinics/agencies have a huge amount of $$ at stake and are willing to downplay those risks to an extreme. The money flies by. FLIES by. And taxed heavily. It's not worth it - unless it is truly altruistic. |
| **5** | It can affect your ability to have children and even though they say it's a small risk I now know multiple donors including myself that it has affected |
| **6** | Be a known donor. The offspring and their families want contact and information, not money or time or to burden you. |
| **7** | You DO have a choice about the type of donation. If you dont want to be anonymous, STAND YOUR GROUND because there are plenty of agencies that offer open donation options. |
| **8** | Be careful with your body, drink lots of coconut water, and feel amazing for what you've done for someone |
| **9** | There is no informed consent |
| **10** | The whole process is very invasive. I'm surprised the this survey did not ask about the day-to-day things donors have to do (besides abstaining from sex, which is not true for all  kinds of sex). All the blood tests, genetic testing, transvaginal ultrasounds, hormones--it's a lot to experience every day. It affected my experience quite a bit, especially the way I conceived of and lived in my body. I would want future donors to know how invasive and uncomfortable it can be. |
| **11** | I would suggest that all potential donors, especially egg donors, consider the implications of their own health before deciding to donate. |
| **12** | Research all you can prior to donating, be sure you ok with the the level of open vs anonymous donation, don't let Dr's overdo the med protocol to try and get more eggs, learn of all risks and signs of OHSS |
| **14** | Please research and ask questions. I am happy I went through the donation and plan to do it again in the near future. I wish I had done more research prior to donating. |
| **15** | That it is important to consider being an open ID donor, and that it's important to talk openly with your clinic about their policies for this. That you may not know it when you donate, but you will be curious about your donor-conceived offspring and wish them well. |

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| **16** | You will change as life goes on. You may make decisions about a donation where you feel that you don't care how the child is raised and then change your mind. Just really think about every option before you choose it and when things change down the road, remember that you made the best choice at the time. Even if you have different thoughts about how you wish the child to be raised, remember that you spent a lot of time thinking about the child and the intended parents put a lot of effort into having them. Everyone does what's best for the offspring. |
| **17** | Don't be afraid to stand up and advocate for yourself! As a donor, you matter and you have rights!!! |
| **20** | It's satisfying to know you helped someone so greatly. |
| **22** | know if they saved any eggs or not |
| **23** | It's not that hard. |
| **25** | Don't listen to all the reports that they say in the news. It's also not a scary process! |
| **28** | Consider what you're passing on. |
| **31** | Its rewarding |
| **33** | That you can have the family reserve eggs for your use later on. I wish I had known that. Also, that it was a rewarding process for me and if I had it to do over I would do it again. |
| **35** | I've learned that for those wanting children it is important that they have the means to do so. I am glad for any small part I may have played in allowing someone to realize their dream of having a family. |
| **36** | Its hard. Extremely hard. But if you follow the Drs orders and be your own advocate its worth it to help someone carry a baby. |
| **37** | It was a rewarding experience to know that children were conceived from my donations. I would like to meet the children one day if possible. |
| **39** | I had a bad reaction after my donation. I had hyper-stimulation, and there was some controversy over whether or not the clinic I donated at would bear financial responsibility. I had no health insurance at the time and was not in good financial shape, so the whole experience was really scary. Being prepared for that kind of situation and clarifying the financial responsibility up front would be important. I'd also tell people to be prepared to be surprised by feelings years later about donation. I honestly didn't think about my donation for years. It was an interesting experience or a story to tell, but I never felt emotionally connected to the potential offspring until I had my own child. I shed some tears thinking about the child who might be years and years later, and I'm sad that my own daughter won't have a chance to know her sister or brother, if a child was conceived from my donation. |
| **41** | Kids have a right to know more than a bare bones profile. |
| **42** | a rewarding experience not recommended to everyone |
| **44** | It is worth knowing what happens to your eggs. I'm glad I didn't do it anonymously. It's more satisfying than I ever expected. |
| **46** | Don't exclude any possibilities |
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| **48** | Think about both the potential recipient parents' perspective as well as that of a future child, in terms of what he or she might want to know about you. I recognized later that both my potential biological offspring as well as my own children may have a strong desire to know more about their family background, beyond what they can learn from a ten page questionnaire. Because I and the sperm donor we used checked "anonymous," we likely foreclosed the possibility of those children learning more. |
| **49** | Yes. |
| **50** | Complications can arise that can be very dangerous to your health. It's not all a walk in the park, but the outcome is well worth it! |
| **52** | It is a good feeling to help someone out but I often worry that my children will meet a child conceived with my eggs and fall in love. It would be nice to know they are in a different city for the above reasons. |
| **53** | Do not agree to be an anonymous donor if that is not really what you want. I wish I had been pushier about being able to make contact with the family, but now 7 years have gone by, and I don't even have a record of my donor number. |
| **55** | Keep track of the place that you donated so that you can inquire about your offspring later on |
| **62** | That you cannot separate the creation of life from responsibility for it. Sperm is not just bodily fluid it represents the a person who will need love and care, and you will wonder for the rest of your life whether they are getting it. I would never do it again. |
| **63** | Any information would be taught. I have nothing to hide and everything to teach |
| **64** | Do it. |
| **65** | Being a donor is like being a murderer. Your a donor for ever, just like you're a murderer for ever. |
| **66** | Keep records, (time, places, documents, etc.) and ask questions. |
| **67** | Don´t do it for the money at all! Ask your own life-values.... |
| **68** | That it's worth the effort and the time to be able to help the women out that have partners that can't have children. If someone wants a child, the technology is there to create that child. |
| **71** | My having been a donor has led to my having a fuller, richer, happier life. |
| **72** | That there is a contingency of advocates, that are trying to destroy the donor system as we know it. If someone told me I would be forced to "update medical information," I would never have considered donating. If this group is successful, it will impair and prejudice my trust in the system for which I signed up to. That will also likely have an impact on how much of a relationship I ultimately decide to have with my donor children. |
| **74** | It can be difficult if you are faced later on with fertility issues to think about the fact that you might have a child out there and not know it. |
| **75** | It's a long, hard process but can make a family very happy. |
| **76** | You must be available to connect and meet with donor-offspring, and not put a limit on the level of connection that offspring desire. In addition, you must be willing to expose yourself (everything they want to know about you) entirely to them. |
| **77** | It was a privilege to help others have a baby. I am proud that I was able to be a donor. |
| **80** | Your offspring will continue to exist in your thoughts if not in your life. |
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| **81** | Donating is great and it feels good to have helped a family grow, but mostly likely you will always think about your potential offspring |
| **82** | I would suggest they consider taking advantage of the process to freeze their own sperm or eggs for possible later use, if they can afford it. This was very new and the industry was not well developed when I did it, but I still probably should have dug around to find a facility to freeze my sperm at, at the time. |
| **85** | Make sure that your significant other knows of your decision. |
| **87** | what you give of yourself may be the most important thing you do |
| **90** | Cant think of anything |
| **93** | You can learn about a lot of good bands reading porn magazines. |
| **94** | Donating is a good thing. Giving people the opportunity to create a family is a good thing. |
| **97** | It was an amazing gift that I was able to give. I had the healthy eggs, someone needed them, and I didn't need all of them. I feel good about being an egg donor. |
| **98** | If no one donates, people struggling with infertility don't have a chance. It's not nearly as hard as they make it sound. |
| **99** | Don't do it unless you are healthy and are in a state that will allow you the rite to have an open donation. |
| **100** | I am OK with it. |
| **101** | I would like them to receive counseling and words of wisdom about the fact that they are helping to create new human beings. It's a big deal. |
| **102** | I would not have donated to the Fairfax Cryobank, but I would still have been a donor. I likely would have continued donating for the full 6 months that was requested instead of quitting. |
| **106** | It has been a true gift to see the children I helped create become beautiful, intelligent adults. |
| **107** | The industry is not regulated. Some facilities may risk your health to get the most they can from you. |
| **109** | Even though my first reasons for wanting to donate were the financial perk, as I went through the process it became much more about giving something to a couple that wanted a child. It was fascinating to learn so much about the biology behind reproduction. I would want them to know that it's a huge time commitment; that part is harder than the medications. And some young donors may not realize that you need to set aside a good portion of the compensation to pay taxes on it. |
| **111** | It is a gift that is indescribable but needs to be thought about long and hard |
| **113** | I didn't have any issues with it. I am proud to tell others (except my parents). |
| **114** | It can be a very frustrating and emotional trip trying to get the donor, IPs, agency, and clinic all on the same page. In the end, it's generally worth it. |
| **115** | Expect to be surprised! |
| **116** | That it's not a trivial act, with no consequence. If your only motivation is money, then it's probably not a good idea. |
| **118** | Honestly that's too long of an answer to put here. Generally it's a positive experience but one with long-lasting consequences and if I had the chance to do it all over, I'm not sure I would. |
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| **119** | excellent experience in the hands of joy |
| **126** | Known donation is the best option, but only if your willing to do what is right for the \*child\* first and foremost, and the parents second, and place your own needs a distant third. |
| **127** | Anonymous no longer means anonymous. Donors can be found, especially if your offspring is smart. Be prepared for offspring to find you and be open to the possibility |
| **131** | Be selfless and help others. If we do not, then who would? |
| **132** | Meeting donor-conceived offspring has been a uniformly wonderful experience! They expect nothing from you. They are just curious what you are like, so I strongly urge you to respond if you are contacted! |
| **135** | Just move on with your life, pat yourself on the back for what you've done, and move on. |
| **137** | It is a personal choice |
| **140** | I really don't know. I'm not sure I've "learned" anything. |
| **141** | Don't be afraid of contacting biological children. |
| **142** | Get your own attorney. Always put what happens to your eggs in your contract and always ask for them to set some aside to save for you. |
| **143** | It is a choice that affects your life and others and in the future the choice of anonymity (for those choosing this) may not exist, so think about how this may impact future relationships and children, and other relatives. |
| **144** | As you get older and you have your family....you will start to think more and more about your offspring. You will wonder about them and yearn to know them and know that they are okay...but with a closed case/totally anonymous ...you will never know anything. That is hard to live with. It's hard to long to know if someone exists ...and if they do....do they know about you....or will they know about you....or do they want to meet you....and HOW could you ever find them? To me, I have an emptiness in my heart that longs to meet them. |
| **146** | Donating is a rewarding experience, but I don't believe it should be taken lightly. It's work, it's a lot of time, and you should really do your research regarding ethics, safety, reviews of clinics you're interested in working with, etc. |
| **147** | I found egg donation to be a positive experience. |
| **149** | It was a great experience. |
| **150** | Do it for the 'greater good' but have (very) low expectations for anything coming back to you |
| **151** | It is a good experience, but 'm not sure what kind of world we are creating. I certainly love the children I have created, but I think they would have turned out better had I been an active participant in their lives. The boys with out fathers in particular have anxiety problems. I can only guess it was because they did not grow up with a father. |
| **153** | You are not going to want to be anonymous. It is great to meet your offspring, even if you may not like everything about them. |
| **154** | The being a sperm donor can be a very interesting and rewarding form of "giving". The consequences for all concerned can be enriching. |
| **156** | Your off-springs are human beings which have right to know their roots. This will affect your life. Be proud that you have off-spring, and act accordingly. |
| **159** | Sure |
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| **160** | open donating is important. |
| **162** | Some donors become more concerned about knowing if children were conceived later in life. When I was a donor, this wasn't important to me. But now at age 50, I would really like to know. |
| **165** | Do it because you want something great for someone else, not because you need to get something out of it (other than monetary payment). |
| **166** | It's a good experience if you are emotionally ready to handle the ambiguity of the situation (i.e., you may meet your offspring or you may not.) |
| **167** | Too much to express here. |
| **168** | giving the gift of life is unforgettable |
| **170** | Children are a blessing, and helping other people build their own families is a great thing to do. |
| **173** | That there are some side-effects (like hyperstimulation) that are downplayed and some doctors will dismiss you after the donation and treat you as less than a patient as soon as "your job is done" and the eggs are out. Also, there are some longer term consequences that I hadn't considered- like weight gain. Which doesn't seem like a big deal but when you do 3 donations in a row, it adds up. MOST IMPORTANTLY- know when to say NO to your agency when you are not ready to do a donation, they will push you to do as many as you can as fast as you can and they (as well as many clinics) will ignore the guidelines that limit the number of donations you should do and they don't care about your future health- only about the money. I personally did 13 donations and they were asking me to do more when I drew the line and said no, I don't think it is ethical to continue doing this. |
| **174** | Whether or not it is possible to contact offspring of your deceased family member's donation. |
| **176** | It is not easy and something that be done after considerable thought. |
| **180** | Being a sperm donor may seem simple – but it is not. You are creating lives and you are giving away your genetic offspring to be raised by others. Think carefully about what you are doing and why. Think about the impacts of this on yourself, your family, your donor offspring. Know that you have a responsibility to be available to your donor offspring later in life – if and when they chose to make that connection with you. |
| **181** | I think would-be donors should be aware that there are lots of donor-conceived people out there who might look for them one day, and may be able to find them even if they're no id-release donors. I think they should also be aware that many countries have banned anonymous donation. |
| **182** | we donated over 20 years ago and things have changed dramatically over this time as it relates to donation. we were not given any real choice but to anonymously donate our frozen embryos or destroy them. this has left us feeling very unfulfilled and unresolved as it relates to this part of our lives. |
| **183** | Guys just need to realize that every time they donate that they are making life. There will be a kid out there looking like and acting like you. If you cannot handle this then do not donate. |
| **184** | For me it was not shoot in the cup and go. I always wondered about what happened to that seed. As I get older I think about it more and more. |
| **185** | that donations result in offspring. I think young people especially tend to overlook this |
| **187** | Figure out if and/or how to be contacted by offspring before you get started. |
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| **190** | That its an awesome, amazing, wonderful thing to do... Do it Altruistically and get far more out of it than money can ever do |
| **192** | You are not regarded as a patient by the industry, although your clinic may make you feel special: this is all about the profit to be made off your eggs. Health risks are unknown and the industry actively avoids finding out whether there are long term effects. |
| **193** | It can be useful to know the results of your sperm analysis. Knowing I had such a high count and good swimmers (which appears genetic to me) was helpful to me in my own sex and family planning decisions. |
| **194** | Think about it to be sure you understand you are not just donating an egg or sperm, you are potentially assisting in creating a life. Be sure to choose a clinic that will allow for communication between donor and recipient if the recipient wants to. ALSO: There was nowhere on this survey to explain my answer to 3 of the questions on the top of this page. When I said I would not want to be a daily part of my biological offsprings' ives, I am just saying I would never want to impose myself into their lives. I would be open to almost any level of connection, other than I would not want to ever try to push out their actual parents who raised them. And if for some reason they needed financial assistance after we had already developed a relationship, I might (maybe) be open to helping to some degree, depending on the situation. And I definitely would not feel I have any right to participate in their decision-making about their future unless we happened to become close and they happened to ask me. Even then, I would more likely just listen and help them figure out what they want to do, rather than encourage a particular path. |
| **195** | That the agency I went to apparently routinely lied about sperm donor profiles, but that in my case I was okay. |
| **196** | Clinics have all the power. |
| **199** | I have learned that being a donor has life long implications and is the greatest gift you can share with those in need. |
| **201** | I did not know it at the time but it is a life changing experience. I have no regrets at all and am thankful for the children who sought to get to know me. |
| **203** | For me, life would be unliveable without children....I want to "pass it forward". |
| **206** | It's satisfying to help others. |
| **207** | That it does linger with you through your life, it's not just something you do and forget about... but in my experience, it's not a bad thing. |
| **210** | Only do it if you are open to the new conections it will bring you. |
| **211** | sure |
| **212** | Not to be afraid of donating, that it's worth it to help create families. |
| **213** | Your offspring can and will find you someday. Be ready for that meeting or don't donate. |
| **214** | The choices you make affect your children. I may choose to be anonamous but my children may feel related to the children created from my eggs and no amount of legal papers i signed, lay out their rights. |
| **217** | Think long and hard about the emotional consequences of the possibility that someone else may have children with your DNA while you may not be able to conceive years down the road. |
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| **219** | They should take advantage of the sophisticated genetic testing now available, and they should insist on being known donors. |
| **220** | It is very rewarding |
| **221** | There is more to it than just a paycheck. |
| **222** | The hormones affected me a great deal after my second cycle. I urge women I talk to now to consider their own bodies before donating, because it can throw off the female hormones for a long time. I also want people to know that it is such a rewarding experience! |
| **223** | the signs of an ovarian cyst, I have had recurrent issues with them. |
| **224** | That it isn't just the money - you are creating life and effecting many people's lives for an entire lifetime. |
| **226** | That the process of becoming an egg donor is lengthy but worth it! |
| **227** | My stance hasn't changed much but it has only been one year. |
| **228** | Donating is not the easiest thing (with the drugs and all, scheduling, learning how to inject, etc) but being able to help someone is the greatest feeling. Yes, you might think about the children that were conceived, but they are absolutely different than "your" children. |
| **229** | It is still a rewarding feeling knowing that I helped someone have a child. It was hard going through the treatment, but it was worth it. |
| **231** | It is a good way to supplement one's income at the same time helping people - otherwise unable - to be come parents. |
| **232** | When you see children in the future, regardless of their race, there will always be a tug at your heart strings. |
| **234** | I was a little concerned that I would feel like I had given away my child. But meeting my recipient parent's child felt just like meeting any other friend's child. |
| **236** | To give is to get. |
| **238** | I think potential donors should know that many of the children that result will be interested in knowing some of the details of their life, and should have contact with them. |
| **239** | The enduring reward of knowing I may have helped an unfertile couple fulfil their highest wish. That personality, motivations, rationale, and valus certainly change during life: What is important today may seem of no issue tomorrow, and vice versa. |
| **241** | Contrary to what you think before starting, connecting to your biological offspring is THE biggest deal of being a donor and it's an awesome, life enriching experience. Do it, for it is wonderful. Limit the number of children (to 20ish?) and keep them geographically close for that will matter a lot. |
| **243** | Attitudes change. Where I didn't care about the future children I might have at 25, now that I am pushing 50 those potential children are very important to me. Things change after you have your own kids. |
| **244** | I have been completely unaffected by having been a donor as I have never been contacted by my offspring. |
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| **245** | The impact of egg donation on donors is under researched. Through online support groups and my own research, I have learned that there is little to no long-term research on the impact of egg donation on donor health. I have heard from many women, enough for it to be of concern, that they have had medical complications and issues with their own fertility months and years after donating. There is currently no way of knowing whether these correlate and impact each other without research. Also, be prepared for agencies treating you like a product and not a patient. It's sad, but seems to be true, that their focus seems to be on the intended parents. Make sure you stand up and advocate for yourself and your medical safety, and if you don't feel comfortable with an agency, the staff, or their contract, then walk away. It's not worth the money to put yourself, your body, and your fertility at risk if you are not as comfortable as possible with donating. |
| **246** | It can be a fabulous, rewarding experience, but you have to be open to letting it evolve as it will, and not try to control it. |
| **248** | Giving up an egg is one thing, once you find out there is a heartbeat and then a birth and then if your lucky you get pictures. Its a whole different ball game as the ball keeps moving. You have to be strong. Once the baby is conceived there is no going back. |
| **249** | As callous as it may sound, being a donor really did take the pressure off of me to want to have my own biological children before "...it was too late." This allowed me to focus on and complete an education and career that would likely not have happened if I had become pregnant. |
| **250** | helping others is important and rewarding. |
| **252** | At the time I donated I was told that there was only about one live birth for each thirty IVF procedures. Maybe that was true at the time but I'm not even sure about that. I thought that I could have at most about fifty offspring but now after talking to mothers on the DSR suspect that number could be much higher. I don't think that is inherently a huge problem as the numbers are small enough and the distribution great enough that intermarriage would be unlikely but it could be an issue if a donor with a genetic condition somehow slipped through the genetic screening. I understand that now some states have limits on the number of offspring which are much lower. |
| **253** | You are helping to make people, little humans. They will be out there in the world and you will wonder and wonder and wonder about them. |
| **254** | That it is a big decision. That it is maybe a life you are creating. That you may wonder in the future if there were children born and may never know for sure. That it is unregulated. there isn't research to know how it will effect your body in the future. That the clinics are all about the money they are making. It is a big business. |
| **255** | How easy it is to become curious about one's genetic offspring and how much that might influence one's decision to be a parent. |
| **257** | Wow, too much to say here. I would love to discuss more. I was a 4X donor. I also did IVF to try to conceive my own children 3X. Became pregnant without assistance at age 37. I would love to meet the children that were conceived and I also think about the potential eggs that were never used, especially when I was having trouble conceiving my own children. I donated like 15 years ago, so I am assuming a lot has changed. It something that I have an interest in. |
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| **258** | That it's a lot more complicated than it seems at first. At first, it's easy to get caught up in the excitement of it all, but the repercussions of donating will last forever and you don't know how your feelings will change. Having donor offspring complicates your biological lineage, and it affects your entire extended family (even if you don't tell them about it). There are medical repercussions as well, that we're only just beginning to discover. It's a great thing to know that a family has a child because of you...but it will affect your life too, for the rest of your life. Being an egg donor is much, much more complicated than just sticking yourself with some needles for a month and collecting a check. To be honest, I would probably try to discourage someone from becoming a donor. |
| **259** | You cannot trust a commercial sperm bank or a paid donor |
| **261** | Don't hesitate- do it. It helps a lot of people and will make you feel great! |
| **262** | At some point, you won't be anonymous; some kids will be curious about you, and will find you; you will likely be curious about the kids at some point; and your significant other(s) will likely care a lot about the fact that you were a donor - good or bad. |
| **264** | The medical community in this field only considers you to be a vendor of gametes, in my experience. They do not want to be concerned with or responsible for complications. It is a very odd relationship, unequal and blinding with intention. |
| **266** | You have to be able to detach yourself fully emotionally. While my niece is my daughter genetically. Emotionally she is only my niece. I'm totally OK with that. If a person doesn't think she can do that, then egg donation isn't for her! |
| **269** | Life is long. Don't rush into it. |
| **270** | - Check the facts, not the popular portrayal of donation pros / cons - This will change your life, but only in a very subtle, interesting and useful way. - If you are too emotionally invested in it, you probably shouldnt do it. |
| **271** | Donating has its rewards but it's also stressful. Don't go into for the money...the risks are too great. |
| **273** | I don't think I've learned anything about it that I didn't already know. |
| **275** | Dear Donor Survey, I would like for other people to know that I went threw Shelley Smiths Egg Donation Program and that I had a great experience all three times. It was not hard giving myself shots in the buttocks and the egg retrieval did not hurt. All in All, I had wonderful dreams about the babies before I gave the eggs and after I gave the eggs. If age wasn’t a factor I would have continued to donate my eggs. So Much Love, Angelia Hepburn Donor ID#5 |
| **276** | That you will be super duper loved by infertile people - even those to whom you are not donating. Feels good to help people make a baby. |
| **278** | Being a donor is a way of sharing life and happiness |
| **279** | That it might be usefull to be well administrated, because your attitude towards knowing about and meeting of donor-offspring might change. |
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| **282** | I had a positive experience overall. I think if someone is led to do that, they should be encouraged to. I also think the questions above--concerning limits to donations (and laws about contact and communication)-- are alarming. The standards for donation are already far higher than for having children without donor services. Parents don't go through any fraction of the screening process that I went through, to become pregnant--no intelligence tests, personality tests, physical and genetic examinations. The process was highly invasive, and I think it's only fair that a donor should be able to have the same choices about involvement (or the number of donations to make) that others have, who decide to create children. People create children every day leaving no careful, detailed medical record behind for them. Any children resulting from my donations have far more information about their genetic, physical, mental, and cultural heritage than the average child, born normally, is ever equipped with, even. many times, those who are raised with their biological parents. This is not something in need of more regulation. |
| **284** | Take the time to talk to people, of a variety of different perspectives. And if you are a known donor, talk about \*EVERYTHING\* with the person(s) you are donating to. Smooth relationships are built on solid communication. |
| **286** | When I first started looking into becoming a donor, I didn't know there was monetary compensation. In my opinion, you can't put a price on egg donation, nor can you do it for the money. There's far too much else at stake that takes the primary focus. If you're in it for a "quick buck", you're looking in the wrong place as I don't think you will take it seriously enough. I've also learned that, although we may think being a donor is to help others, we donors experience tremendous growth ourselves from the journey. It's beautiful and should be appreciated from every aspect. |
| **287** | Ask questions. Of everyone involved. Read through your contact carefully. Advocate for yourself. |
| **288** | Completely worth it. |
| **289** | Being a donor can be a very rewarding experience - but first be sure you know what you believe in, and always associate yourself only with doctors and/or clinics that conduct themselves with the highest standards of ethics and professionalism. Also, being an anonymous donor is a very different experience from being a known donor - so be sure you choose what is right for you. |
| **293** | Research the facility prior to donating. I was lucky that a top fertility clinic was in town and I have been treated extremely well through each donation. Others who have used agencies have had less success. |
| **297** | Ive learned you need to have a lot of heart to do this. |
| **298** | yes |
| **299** | This is a huge desicision. Money comes and goes but once your eggs are retrieved, you have no rights. You CAN ask things to be changed on a contract. If you're uncomfortable with something, voice it. It is your right as a donor! My contract stated that if I opted to let the agency give left over eggs to other, less fortunate couples, that I would not be compensated or notified. No compensation is fine, but I wish I had changed the contract so that I would be notified. I do feel responsible for where these kids end up. Afterall, if I hadnt made the decision to become a donor, they never would have left my body. |
| **300** | That it is human life you are providing. They are your biological children. |
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| **301** | YES! I have learned so much through WeAreEggDonors.com and going through the donation process. It's difficult to know what you are getting into beforehand- but it is a big choice, and I don't think there is enough unbiased information readily available to new donors. |
| **303** | Weigh all of the risks. Do a lot of research. The risks are huge. And don't think it can't happen to you. |
| **304** | That OHSS is a bigger risk than it is made out to be, that the clinic's main concern is to make a profit. |
| **308** | Really consider what level of information you are requesting and what you will be ok with in the future. The only things I read up on that donors had an issue with was the not knowing if there was ever a child or multiple children born from their eggs. Also, take care to use the clinic and it's resources if you have any questions or have any issues at any point of the donation process. Don't let them treat you any less than an actual patient, because in reality they are working for their client, the intended parents, and guarantee them a certain number of eggs, and you are that egg farm. Make sure all your medical needs are met. And having a support system throughout the process really does help. |
| **309** | Donor agencies and fertility clinics are not objective. You are a dollar sign to them and they do not have your best interest in mind. |
| **311** | I would like them to know that it is important to decide why they want to be a donor, and if they wish, it is possible to enter into legal contracts to be a known donor for specific couples. |
| **313** | Do it if it feels right. |
| **314** | That the egg donating industry kind of sucks. The first facility I went to treated me like cattle. The were unwelcoming and passed me around like I was on an assembly line. There was no warmth at all from the woman who was very rough with my very first transvaginal ultrasound, and the blood tech had a needle in my arm before informing me that they couldn't perform all the tests that were ordered for me, so I'd have to go somewhere else and have blood taken again that same day (blood work was VERY stressful for me). Then no one bothered to tell me where the other place was, which made me made since it was in the same building, and I had to walk all the way back to my office to find that out. BUT they were also awful to the recipient, so my recipient looked (very hard... apparently a lot of the clinics are owned by the same company in the end) and found a much friendlier office within a hospital. They were lovely, and from then on everything was great. The point it, I think theres a mentality that women are doing this for money and therefore they are lessor, and that was tangible in that first office. |
| **316** | That being able to help someone like this is one of the most selfless things you can do. You shouldn't pass judgement on someone. |
| **317** | The entire regime has changed and evolved so much that my experience mostly doesn't apply. I guess all I could say is that it isn't something you can just do and then easily forget about. |
| **322** | Clinics have revealed confidential information and that despite what the clinic told you about remaining anonymous and protecting your privacy, do not be surprised if you are contacted by a sperm recipient. |
| **323** | No, I believe what I learned matters to me, but perhaps they will have different values. |

(194 total)