

## OPTIONS FERTILITY

10/6/07

[http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/4027](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/4027)

OPTIONS National Fertility Registry had a program that was similar to what you are proposing. Extensive information was taken on the donors. Psychological screening and MMPI's were done on each donor. Health history for 2 generations were taken. Copies of all the medical screening were collected and kept on file. The option of future contact and correspondence between the parties was also made available. The only difference was that legal agreements were drawn up between the parties before the donation was completed. Any children born out of these arrangements were to be reported to OPTIONS and this was stated in the contracts. Unfortunately, this did not work out too well. Being as OPTIONS was not a bank we had to rely on them to handle the donations properly. Unbeknownst to us, they were selling the donations to their own clients and not notifying us (I will not name which bank, but it is one that has been recently mentioned). Because OPTIONS is now out of business, all the records are in jeopardy and there is no one to give vital information to all the parties. However, I do believe there is a solution to this problem and it is not just a dream.

--- S wrote:

- > I proposed the same idea to Wendy a few months ago - what do they
- > say about certain people thinking alike? ;)
- > I was thinking that we could give out a "DSR/CaBRI Seal of
- > Approval" not to banks on a wholesale level, but to individual
- > donors. Think how big a selling point it would be for a bank to
- > say that all (or most) of their donors had such a thing?
- > To get this seal, the donor would have to pass muster. They would
- > have to give their donor profile under oath, and upon pain of
- > perjury. Their medical and genetic screening would have to be
- > extensive and properly documented. They would have to agree
- > to "the minimum package" of ID release, which is the packet of
- > family tree and medical history (validated) photos, name, SS# and
- > contact information to which every child is entitled at age 18.
- > Polite preference for "No additional or more involved contact
- > beyond the "package" would be allowed and respected.

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> --- t wrote:

- > Since deciding whom to conceive through is just about the most
- > important decision that a woman can make in her whole life, it is
- > essential that a sperm bank be trustworthy.
- > Unfortunately as many of the postings on this site can attest, many
- > sperm banks are just straightforwardly dishonest.
- > I have had a bright thought! Maybe the DSR can draw upon its vast
- > experience dealing with thousands of recipients and parents rearing
- > donor offspring to put together regulations that they can invite sperm
- > banks to sign up to and adopt. If the sperm banks sign up and
- > implement such regulations they can be granted the DSR seal of approval.

9/6/07

[http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/3908](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3908)

In the six years that I worked with OPTIONS, the sperm donors that I worked with were told that these were anonymous arrangements. They were also told that laws could be passed in the future to change this. However, I don't think that any of the donors gave much thought to this and thought that they would always be protected. I don't think that anyone really gave much thought to what might happen in the future.

8/7/07

[http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/3766](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3766)

For six years I worked with one of the largest fertility registries in the country, OPTIONS National Fertility Registry. Our company was not a medical facility. Our purpose was to link together anonymous egg donors

with infertility patients. This company also did a few sperm donor arrangements. OPTIONS worked with over 450 doctors in the fertility industry from coast to coast. After working with so many doctors for so many years I got a good sense of how the fertility industry views the donors and its patients.

This is a highly competitive industry. When I first started with OPTIONS in 1996, the average number of eggs retrieved from an egg donor was anywhere from 7 to 15. In 2003, when OPTIONS closed, I was seeing cycles where the number of eggs retrieved were in the 30's, 40's, and even 50's. There were many more cases of hyper stimulation.

The donors that came to OPTIONS went through an intensive screening process. Most were college educated. The majority of them became a donor because they had an honest desire to help infertile patients. OPTIONS did directed donations which means that they worked exclusively with a specific person or couple. There were contracts in these arrangements to determine what happened to any left over eggs or embryos. The majority of the contracts stated that the written permission of the donor was needed if the eggs or embryos were going to be used for anything else or even donated to another couple. There is controversy as to whether a donor should get paid for her donation. As a cycle coordinator I had a first hand view of what these donors went through. Some of these donors would travel across the country to the recipient's doctor and would be off work for more than a week. If they were hyper stimulated they would also have to take time off to recover. They also had to be available at a moment's notice to go in for doctor appointments. Compared to what the doctors were making, the donors do not make nearly enough for their precious gift.

Another service that OPTIONS provided was to let the donors know if any children were born out of these arrangements. The donor was also supposed to let us know of any children that she had so we could inform the recipients. The majority of them had social responsibility clauses in their contracts to address this issue. Because of what has been discovered the integrity of this information has been compromised. This website address will briefly explain what happened.

<http://www.ocregister.com/news/eggs-options-doctors-1782305>

My heartfelt concern is for the children. Right now parents are having very difficult time getting information about their sperm donors. In 10 or 15 years the same thing is going to be true of these egg donor arrangements. The fertility doctors do not always have or keep information of any babies being born out of these arrangements. Usually after 12 weeks or so a recipient who gets pregnant is released by her fertility doctor to a regular OB/Gyn doctor. Unless she lets the fertility doctor and/or the donor agency know that a child was born there will be no record link between the two. What happens if the egg donor decides to work for another couple or another agency with a different doctor? It will be difficult, if almost impossible, to find the genetic links. If these doctors are doing back door deals described in the Texas case with Dr. Allon, we will never know where these children are. One OPTION's egg donor tried to get her medical records from the doctor she cycled with to find out what happened to her missing eggs. They told her that they don't have her on record as ever being a patient there. They said that after 7 years, they destroy records. You can imagine that this donor was devastated and felt that they thought of her as just an egg factory.

It seems like these doctors do not want to take any responsibility Not only do they get paid for performing the actual medical procedures involved, but also for selling any left over embryos or eggs to other patients (hopefully with the consent of all parties involved). Obviously the infertility community cannot police themselves. There is too much money at stake. It is my perception that a lot of the doctors do not regard the donors and patients as people, only as statistics for success rates.

1/12/05

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/3939>

Options closed down a year ago last October because of a legal battle. It seems that one of their egg donors contracted with a couple in a Texas clinic, and that at the time of the IVF cycle her eggs were shared between the couple she contracted with and another couple, without a second contract or agreement—or even the donor's knowledge that there was a second couple involved. The donor called the clinic a few weeks after the cycle to find out how her recipients had fared, and an unsuspecting nurse said, "good news, both couples are pregnant."

This was the first the donor had heard about there being a second couple involved. So she sued everybody--the recipient couple, the second couple, the clinic and Options. The costs and reputation damage from the lawsuits were too much for Options to handle and still stay in business, so they shut down.

That's what I heard at the time at least. I haven't heard anything about the outcome of the battles, or whether they are still raging.

I thought it was a real shame, since we found our sperm donor through Options and we were impressed and

delighted that they were the only agency we could find at all that handled gamete donors of both genders--and who treated sperm donors the same as egg donors, with full, detailed profiles and adult photos. We're also very glad that we got our donor's cryobank info before Options shut down, so we were able to proceed with our cycle! The big downside for us, however, was that through Options he was willing to have some contact with us, but the cryobank's policy is for total anonymity, so with Options' demise we missed our chance to have personal contact with him. We keep hoping he'll find out about this registry and that we'll still meet up with him someday, though.