I’m a Sperm Donor Father

Here’s my story
Introduction........................................................................................................3
My Story..................................................................................................................4
Three Things You Should Know About Sperm “Donation” ...........................................10
  1. Sperm Donation Poses Psychological and Health Risks to Donor Conceived Children ........................................................................................................................................10
  2. Sperm Donation is Often Eugenic and Coercive .....................................................11
  3. Sperm Donation Poses Psychological and Legal Harms to Donors .......................11
Three Things You Should Know About Third Party Assisted Reproduction .......................13
  1. Egg “Donation” and Surrogacy Carry Health and Psychological Risks that often Go Untold ......................................................................................................................................13
  2. There are Health and Psychological Risks to the Children Born via Third Party Reproductive Arrangements ..................................................................................................14
  3. Third Party Conception is Risky, Often Eugenic, and Involves Coercion .................16
S.G.’s Story ................................................................................................................19
Our Documentary Films ...............................................................................................20
  Anonymous Father’s Day ........................................................................................20
  Eggsploitation .........................................................................................................21
  Breeders: A Subclass of Women? .............................................................................22
  Maggie’s Story .........................................................................................................23
Study Guide ................................................................................................................24
Anonymous Father’s Day Facebook Page .................................................................25
About The Center for Bioethics and Culture ..........................................................26
Contact CBC .............................................................................................................27
Introduction

Because of the work that we do on the topic of third-party reproduction—egg donation, sperm donation, and surrogacy—we are frequently contacted by those who have been affected by these practices. Kevin contacted us after he watched our film *Anonymous Father’s Day*. We exchanged several emails with him about his experience and his perspective. In 2017, we asked him if he would be willing to share his story with a broader audience. This e-book is that story. As you will read, Kevin’s sperm-donation experience has affected him greatly. We are grateful to be able to share his story.

Following Kevin’s story, you will find several additional resources on sperm donation and third-party reproduction, as well as more information about our organization, The Center for Bioethics and Culture, and the films and other resources we’ve created.

We trust that you will find this story and these resources informative, helpful, and useful. Please explore our website (cbc-network.org) and the websites of our films, especially AnonymousFathersDay.com for more information on the important bioethics issues that we address.

If you have not already done so, please consider following us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and/or Vimeo.

We welcome your feedback on this ebook as well as on our other resources. You can contact us at info@cbc-network.org.

Thank you,

Matthew Eppinette
Executive Director
The Center for Bioethics and Culture
My Story

By Kevin D.

Dear Jennifer,

I first became aware of the Center for Bioethics and Culture several years ago while searching the internet. My relationship with my daughter’s “moms” had become strained, and I was looking for guidance from others who might be having a similar experience. I discovered Anonymous Father’s Day at that time and, intrigued, immediately ordered a copy. I’ve since purchased additional copies to share with others, along with all your other films. I also initiated contact with you around that time.

I never intended nor agreed to be anonymous, but for all practical purposes that's what I've become, at least temporarily. In reality, I'm not anonymous. There are many people who know who I am, and I can easily be found. This is in stark contrast to truly anonymous fathers, who can only be identified by an assigned number. The children of anonymous fathers have precious little information to go on, and many of them are unsuccessful in their attempts to find their fathers. Likewise, an anonymous father often has little or no information about his child or children. I knew my daughter for the first few years of her life, after which our budding relationship was severed.

I'd like to say at the outset that I won't be using the “preferred” terms. I will refer to my daughter as my daughter, and I will refer to myself as her father. Some would prefer that I use terms such as “biological child” when referring to her, and that I use the term “donor” when referring to myself. But these are words that are intended to hide the truth and placate children. The Family Equality Council publishes a booklet called “Talking To Children About Our Families.” One of the tips in the booklet says this: “Note: Because children at this stage (4-7) associate mother and father as relationships that children have with people, be cautious about using terms like ‘father’ or ‘mother’ to describe sperm donors or surrogates unless you have made the decision to include them in a parenting relationship.”¹ The tips in this booklet are quite enlightening to

¹ www.familyequality.org/_asset/x8mxv5/talkingtochildren.pdf
the uninitiated. They are designed to minimize the role of donor fathers, egg donor mothers, and surrogate mothers and, hopefully, to appease a child's natural longing to know her father or mother. This longing may give way to a simple passing curiosity. And it works, at least sometimes. But the fact remains that every child has a father, even if he is anonymous. More on that later.

I met my daughter’s “moms” at an agency where I was working with one of them. We hit it off and started spending a lot of time together. For a couple of years, we spent nearly every weekend together cooking out, working on home projects, and just hanging out. I cared about them a great deal, and was pleased when they asked me to father two children with them. I discussed it with my then fiancée, who was amenable to the idea.

The plan, in a nutshell, was that I would father a child with each woman. I would consent to adoption by each “non-birth mother.” I would have as much or as little involvement with each of the children as I desired. It feels very strange to put this in writing, as I haven't done so before. Looking back, the whole arrangement feels pretty haphazard. There were no written contracts. What could possibly go wrong?

One of the more bizarre aspects to the story is that I was introduced to all the friends and families of both women. I struck up friendships with many of them, and even spent a week-long vacation with one set of parents.

So, the time came for the first woman to become pregnant. The methodology used was about as low-tech as you can get. I went to their home, produced the sample in their guest house, handed it over to them, and left. The pregnancy occurred on the first try.

At first, the relationship with “moms” seemed to be going fine. About mid-way through the pregnancy, however, things began to change. I noticed that they were beginning to push me away, a perception that was corroborated by a couple of outside observers. My own feelings toward my unborn daughter were starting to change as well. I hadn’t been a father before, and was unprepared for the paternal feelings that were arising within me. These feelings became even more pronounced once my daughter was born. I wanted to see her. They didn’t want me to see her. In retrospect, this was clearly the beginning of the
end of the relationship, and a dynamic that would continue to worsen over time.

To be fair, my initial thoughts toward the idea of children in this arrangement were that I would be okay with seeing them only rarely, and this was what I had verbalized to the “moms.” This made it much easier for them to tell me that I could have as much or as little involvement with the children as I desired. I meant what I said at that time. I don’t believe they did. As it happened, I wanted a lot more involvement than I had previously thought. This was something of a shock to everyone, including my then wife, who had not signed up for this level of attachment. It caused a lot of stress in our marriage, and we divorced about a year after my daughter’s birth.

Meanwhile, the friendships I had formed at the beginning of the process began to drop away. Emails went unanswered. It was clear I was becoming a problem.

Given everything that had happened so far, it was more than a little surprising when one of the moms called me about a year after my daughter’s birth to talk about the second child. And, perhaps more surprising still, that I agreed to continue. My thinking at the time was that although we had hit some major bumps in the road, maybe now things would begin to smooth out again.

I was now living in another state, and began flying to their location on a regular basis to father the second child with the second mom. On each trip, I became more and more attached to my daughter. We were developing a relationship. This did not go unnoticed by her birth mom, who became more prone to emotional outbursts. These trips were punctuated by what I perceived as verbal abuse.

A viable second pregnancy was never achieved during my numerous trips. And, considering the breakdown in my relationship with the moms, this was just as well. My typically enthusiastic attitude toward the process, and toward life in general, had become pretty negative. The relationship was foundering, and I torpedoed it with my own behavior, which had now become driven by deep feelings of grief and helplessness. I insisted on attempting to stay in frequent contact with my daughter, even though her moms had told me not to do so. So it was not a big surprise when the lawyers got involved.
I had fulfilled my promise to consent to adoption by the non-birth mother. I never wanted to do this, but it was a promise I had made. There was also pressure coming from all sides to do so. I still believe it was the right thing to do. But it also illustrates the truth that there is often some amount of coercion in these arrangements. The lawyers met their goal of getting rid of me, mostly. I still maintain a strong internet presence, and identify myself as my daughter’s father. It will take her 5 seconds to find me. Computers can be blocked, however, and I suspect this is the case. In the end, I take exactly one third of the responsibility for the breakdown.

The positive outcome from my story is that I have a beautiful daughter. I love her as much today as I did the day she was born, even though I haven't seen or heard from her in years. If she wants a relationship with me, she will have it. I don’t know what, if anything, she’s been told about me, but I assume the worst. Everyone in her extended family knows who I am, and I do wonder if they are all keeping me a secret from her. One of the things I’ve learned over the years is that secrecy is the hallmark of many of these situations. Secrecy and lack of honesty.

Many donor-conceived children have a longing to know their fathers, and I feel badly for those children who have no avenue for finding out who they are. They can’t even search vital records, since so many of these, as in my case, are falsified. My name doesn’t appear on my daughter’s birth certificate, a fact that I learned only a few years ago, when I requested a copy of it from her birth state’s office of records. Most people are unaware that this has become a very common practice. Instead, phrases such as “intended parents” are used, and words are carefully chosen when explaining to the child the story of her origin. It’s not hard to imagine two half-siblings marrying each other and having children together, never knowing—or having any way to find out—that they are brother and sister, other than through genetic testing.

As you have pointed out so succinctly in your writings and films, any type of third-party reproduction involves the exploitation of the third party, whether it be egg donor mothers or surrogate mothers. I would argue that the same applies to donor fathers. Prospective parents peruse files of potential donor fathers and cast an exploratory eye toward any male, including their male
friends, looking for those who possess the attributes they want the children to have. The predatory nature of some prospective parents is illustrated by family-building workshops with titles such as “The Search for Semen.”

I’ve had two other lesbian friends who started talking to me about children. It was clear to me what they were hinting at, and I was quickly able to shut down the idea of fathering children with them. I’ve become hyper-aware that there are certain people who are always on the prowl. It’s all about the desires of the prospective parents. The needs of the donor mother or father are not considered, much less the needs of the child, many of whom are not too pleased when they finally learn about the deceit involved in their conception.

Meanwhile, cryobank marketing campaigns extoll the virtues of giving a great gift to couples who can’t conceive children. Men rationalize their actions by convincing themselves they’re doing a noble thing, then collect their payment on their way out the door. When anonymity is removed, such has been the case in Canada and several European countries, the supply of donor fathers is greatly reduced. It’s as if the men become much more aware of the gravity of what they’re doing. The media-consuming public generally buy every word of the sales pitch. They’re thrilled that their friends are having a baby, and don’t give a thought to the other people involved. If you try to point out to them that there’s more to the story, they will often become indignant, even hostile. This has been my experience, as I know it has been yours.

Proponents of donor insemination will argue vehemently that genetics don’t matter when it comes to building a family. Then, in the same breath, they will insist that all their children are biologically related. So, which is it? The answer given is whichever one works best for them in a given situation. They will argue that the child is wanted and loved. As always, their language excludes the wants of the child.

As a child gets older, it becomes impossible to keep information about her a secret. The internet knows all, and even a casual search yields a lot of information. It’s more than a little strange to know my daughter, where she lives, her favorite activities, etc., while at the same time being unable to have contact with her, and realizing that she probably knows nothing about me,
other than the half-truths she may have been told. She exhibited some of my mannerisms as a small child, and I wonder if she has continued to display these, and perhaps others. And I wonder if her moms will admit to themselves that these mannerisms are mine.

As I’ve already said, the second child was never conceived, at least by me. I can only assume that the moms were wise enough to recognize the destructive nature of donor-father conception. One can only hope they won’t repeat the process. I would recommend against anyone participating in the practice, which I now recognize as highly unethical, on so many levels. So many children lose their fathers through tragic, uncontrollable circumstances. But to create a child with the premeditated intent of separating her from her father is downright cruel.

I’ve returned to my enthusiastic self. The negativity I felt toward my daughter’s moms and the process we went through were not who I really am. I think of my daughter every day, and I miss her a lot. I’m eager to know the young lady she has become. When we see each other again, she will find a father who loves her, and she will find an extended family she never knew she had. My hope is that her feelings toward me will be more than a passing curiosity which, once satisfied, will not be thought of again.

Kevin
Three Things You Should Know About Sperm “Donation”

1. Sperm Donation Poses Psychological and Health Risks to Donor Conceived Children

Children conceived via sperm donation overwhelmingly agree that their biological father is half of who they are. Many of them agree that the circumstances of their conception bother them.

Research indicates that donor offspring are more likely to suffer with depression and substance abuse than children reared by their biological parents. They are more likely to become donors themselves in an effort to “pay it forward.”

Sperm donors do not undergo extensive medical testing prior to donating, which means they may pass on genetic diseases to their potential offspring, even though in theory those buying sperm are told they are buying sperm from “healthy” donors to prevent “unfit” or “unwanted” children. Furthermore, children conceived through their sperm will have no access to important, perhaps life saving, medical information from/about their sperm donor.

There is little to no regulation over how many times a man can donate or how many children may be conceived from his donations, potentially creating many dozens, even hundreds of unknown children and half siblings.

Anonymity combined with Genetic Sexual Attraction (the possibility of attraction between close relatives who first meet as adults) creates potential for people to unknowingly become sexually intimate with a sibling, cousin, etc.

---

2 The term sperm “donation” is euphemistic in nature as the “donor” is compensated for his sperm.

Young adult children born via anonymous sperm donation suffer serious identity problems according to both empirical studies and first-person testimonies. A study in the journal Human Reproduction concluded, “Disclosure to children conceived with donor gametes should not be optional.”

Children and adults conceived via sperm donors have expressed a deep sense of disenfranchised grief, “a grief which is: not recognized and supported by the community . . . mourners whose grief is disenfranchised are . . . cut off from the social supports and so have few opportunities to express and resolve their feelings . . . either the relationship is not recognized, the loss is not recognized, or the griever is not recognized.”

Sperm donors often regret their decision later in life and often go searching for their children.

2. Sperm Donation is Often Eugenic and Coercive
Ads commonly target specific racial, physical, and intellectual characteristics—giving parents the opportunity (or at least the illusion that they may be able) to create a custom-made, designer child.

Ads that highlight easy money while helping someone have a child often motivate men to donate their sperm, with little or no information presented on the realities these children and they themselves will face later in their lives.

3. Sperm Donation Poses Psychological and Legal Harms to Donors

---

4 See AnonymousUs.org, an online story collective for real life testimonials for voluntary and involuntary participants of assisted reproduction. See also the 2012 documentary Anonymous Father’s Day. http://www.anonymousfathersday.com.


6 https://www.donorsiblingregistry.com/sites/default/files/files/rose_fromabundle.PDF.

As there is no regulation, it’s impossible to know just how many children are conceived through sperm donation each year. Many countries, like the U.S., don’t limit how many times a man may donate, meaning it is not unreasonable that one could father hundreds of children. Later in life many sperm donors regret their decision as they realize they are responsible for biological offspring that they have effectively abandoned.

At the time of donation many men do not fully understand how their decision to donate their sperm might eventually affect many others within his own family.

The biological link between parent and child is undeniably intimate, and when severed has lasting repercussions felt by both parties. A 2013 study in Reproductive BioMedicine surveyed 108 parents of children conceived via egg donation and found that fifty percent regretted using anonymous donation for these very reasons.8

The practice of sperm donation is inconsistent with the United Nation’s Convention on the Rights of the Child which holds that “the child...shall have the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.”

Some donors become tangled in legal battles over child support.9

---


Three Things You Should Know About Third Party Assisted Reproduction

1. Egg “Donation”\(^{10}\) and Surrogacy Carry Health and Psychological Risks that often Go Untold

The medical process required for egg retrieval is lengthy and there are known medical risks associated with each step. Risks include Ovarian Hyper Stimulation syndrome (OHSS) due to superovulation, loss of fertility, ovarian torsion, stroke, kidney disease, premature menopause, ovarian cysts, and in some rare cases, death.\(^{11}\)

Lupron, a drug commonly used in the first step of the egg donation process to stop ovarian function and thus medically induce menopause before hyperstimulation of the ovaries, is a synthetic hormone that is not approved by the FDA for use in fertility treatment. It has a Category X rating, which means if a woman gets pregnant while taking the drug there will be harm to the developing fetus. This is extremely concerning with respect to egg donors who are very fertile and may not be compliant with instructions not to be sexually active during ovarian stimulation.

Lupron use in preparing a gestational surrogate to receive transferred embryos has been documented to put a woman at risk for increased intracranial pressure.\(^{12}\)

\(^{10}\) The language of the very few laws in the U.S. on egg “donation” state that the woman is being compensated for her time and effort, and that the eggs are in fact a donation.


Most concerning is that to date there has been no major peer-reviewed medical research on the long-term effects of egg harvesting on the health of the young women who provide their eggs. This makes it impossible for women to give true meaningful informed consent relative to the health and psychological risks involved.

Studies show that women pregnant with donor eggs have a more than three-fold risk of developing pregnancy induced hypertension and pre-eclampsia.\(^{13}\)

Due to the high costs involved in surrogacy and the strong desire to boost success rates, multiple embryos are often transferred in the surrogate mother. In addition to the increased risk of caesarian sections and longer hospital stays, the British Journal of Medicine warns “Multiple pregnancies are associated with maternal and perinatal complications such as gestational diabetes, fetal growth restriction, and pre-eclampsia as well as premature birth.”\(^{14}\)

2. There are Health and Psychological Risks to the Children Born via Third Party Reproductive Arrangements

Children born through assisted reproduction are much more likely to suffer from low and very low birth weights according to a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine.\(^{15}\)

Children conceived via IVF suffer from significant increases in preterm births, stillbirths, low birth weights, fetal anomalies, higher blood pressure, and Beckwith-Wiedemann and Angelman syndrome, according to studies published in the American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology, the Journal of

\(^{13}\) Science Daily, “Pregnancies following egg donation associated with more than 3-fold higher risk of hypertension” July 1, 2014.


Surrogate pregnancies intentionally sever the natural maternal bonding that takes place during pregnancy. A June 2013 study released in the *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* found that “surrogacy children showed higher levels of adjustment difficulties at age 7,” and that “the absence of a gestational connection to the mother may be more problematic.” The study also reported that the child’s difficulties “may have been under-reported by reproductive donation mothers who may have wished to present their children in a positive light.”

Young adult children born via anonymous gamete donation suffer serious genealogical bewilderment according to both empirical studies and actual testimonies. A study in the journal *Human Reproduction* concluded, “Disclosure to children conceived with donor gametes should not be optional.”


22 See AnonymousUs.org, an online story collective for real life testimonials for voluntary and involuntary participants of assisted reproduction, as well as our 2012 documentary *Anonymous Father’s Day* [http://www.anonymousfathersday.com](http://www.anonymousfathersday.com).

Egg and sperm donors often regret their decision later in life. Many studies have been done about egg and sperm donors searching for and finding their biological (genetic) children.\(^{24}\)

The biological link between parent and child is undeniably intimate, and when severed has lasting repercussions felt by both parties. A 2013 study in *Reproductive BioMedicine* surveyed 108 parents of children conceived via oocyte donation and found that fifty percent regretted using anonymous donation for these very reasons.\(^{25}\)

### 3. Third Party Conception is Risky, Often Eugenic, and Involves Coercion

According to the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology, there is a global failure rate of 77% of all assisted reproductive cycles.\(^{26}\)

According to the Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention, the failure rate in the United States is almost 70%.\(^{27}\) Users of IVF are rarely aware of their high chances of failure.

Teresa Erickson, a reproductive attorney, convicted of baby selling, has stated that she was just “the tip of the iceberg.”\(^{28}\) Rudy Rupak, founder of Planet Hospital, a global IVF industry provider of services stated in the *New York Times*, “Here’s a little secret for all of you. There is a lot of treachery and

---


deception in I.V.F./fertility/surrogacy because there is gobs of money to be made.”\textsuperscript{29} The fertility industry is estimated to be a multi-billion dollar per year industry in the United States alone.

Egg donors are recruited through ads in online classifieds, social media, and college newspapers, offering anywhere from $5,000 to $100,000. These ads rarely, if ever, make any mention of the potential health risks involved, nor do they reveal that no long-term studies have ever been conducted. Such information is essential for decision-making and consent to be truly and fully informed. Surrogates, often low-income military wives, are similarly targeted.

It has been suggested that all the marketing and advertising, which currently only states the “benefits” of selling your eggs or renting your womb, must include the risks. In short, there are “significant ethical and policy problem[s] with the status quo.” and yet, brokers and clinics, who stand to profit most, resist calls to do the necessary studies and warn women of potential risks.\textsuperscript{30}

The business of egg and sperm “donation” runs the risk of eugenic commodification. Ads commonly target specific racial, physical, and intellectual characteristics—giving parents the opportunity (or at least the illusion that they may be able) to create a custom-made, designer child. Surrogacy contracts often include “abortion clauses” giving intended parents control over if and when a surrogate must terminate the pregnancy.

Surrogacy often depends on the exploitation of poorer women. Money acts as a strong incentive to encourage women to put themselves at risk. As the European parliament stated in a resolution, surrogacy and egg sale constitute an “extreme form of exploitation of women.”\textsuperscript{31}


The New York State Task Force on Life and the Law stated that commercial surrogacy “could not be distinguished from the sale of children and that it placed children at significant risk of harm.”\textsuperscript{32}

S.G.’s Story

I may be a little bit unusual as far as the children of sperm donors go. I am a 50 year old woman, and I found out exactly one week ago today. It came from out of the blue, because I have done genealogy for the last 20 years, and very recently decided to take a DNA test.

I think in a way that I am still a little bit numb, but when the feelings come, they are strong and painful. It’s always on my mind. Always.

The worst part that I see so far, is that no one in my circle of family and friends even has the slightest clue as to what I am feeling. I should put an exception on that though, because, despite my parents wishes, I told my 30 year old daughter. She was nearly as crushed as I was. We identified so strongly with my Dad’s Scottish heritage. It was part of who we were.

I have not told my 25 year old son yet, as he is in the military, stationed in another state, and I know this will crush him. I want to do it in person. I have to be there for him.

Until then, I will wait for my DNA results to come back and hope that I can find a few clues as to who this man was. My mom only had very vague memories of what the doctor told her when he did the procedure. I was able to find out the name of the doctor and find some of his background information online, but he died about 15 years ago. I know my parents only wanted children, and that maybe, at best, the donor only wanted to help someone.

The unfortunate part is that now, all the pain and misery is heaped on me. Knowing what I know now, I strongly believe that Sperm Donation HAS to be an open procedure. That the child should full access to the donor’s information. It’s the only moral thing to do.

Struggling,

S.G.
Our Documentary Films

We have produced six original documentary films, including a trilogy on third-party reproduction: Anonymous Father’s Day (2011), Eggsploitation (2013), and Breeders: A Subclass of Women? (2014). The films can be streamed on Amazon and are available for DVD purchase on their respective websites.

Anonymous Father’s Day

Thousands of donor-conceived people have a deep longing to know who they belong to, where they come from, and who they look like. What is it like to grow up not knowing who your biological father is or if you have any siblings? What is it like to find out that the man you thought was your dad is not your biological father, that your true biological father donated his sperm and is known only by a number? How does it impact your self-perception, the choices you make, and your view of life and the world? Donor-conceived people are demanding answers to these basic questions about their origins, their lives, and their identities.

Available on AmazonInstant (FREE for Amazon Prime members) and DVD

“Anonymous Father’s Day gives a voice to those adult children of Third Party Reproduction (TPR) who have a fundamental human right to information about their genetic history for their health and medical care, to their identity and family history, and to siblings they may have all over the world . . . Jennifer Lahl’s film sheds much needed light on an ever-growing population ignored and too often silenced by society.”

— Kathleen Sloan, Feminist, human rights advocate, and author, National Organization for Women (NOW)

“The great virtue of Anonymous Father’s Day is that it asks us to examine a practice many simply take for granted . . . This documentary invites us to think about the well-being of those who had no say in the process—the children conceived as part of someone else’s reproductive project.”

— Gilbert Meilaender, Ph.D., Duesenberg Professor in Christian Ethics, Valparaiso University

Visit http://www.anonymousfathersday.com for more information.
Eggsploitation

The infertility industry in the United States has grown to a multi-billion dollar business. What is its main commodity? Human eggs. Young women all over the world are solicited by ads—via college campus bulletin boards, social media, online classifieds—offering up to $100,000 for their “donated” eggs, to “help make someone’s dream come true.” But who is this egg donor? Is she treated justly? What are the short- and long-term risks to her health? The answers to these questions will disturb you . . .

Available on iTunes, AmazonInstant, GooglePlay, and DVD

“Eggsploitation makes a powerful, provocative, and, ultimately, modest proposal: women who consider donating eggs have a right to complete information on the risks involved. Lured by promises of sometimes desperately needed money and a chance to help another woman, vulnerable young women face unknown dangers to their health in an unregulated industry. Eggsploitation is a compelling call for oversight and research so that egg donors can be truly informed before giving consent.”
— Patricia Ireland, President of NOW (National Organization for Women) 1991-2001, author of What Women Want

“This powerful, important and informative documentary gives viewers true insight into the egg donation industry and helps us to better understand the desperate need for regulation and oversight. All prospective egg donors (and recipients) as well as all practitioners and agency employees in the egg donation industry should be required to watch this film!”
— Wendy Kramer, Director and Co-Founder, Donor Sibling Registry

Breeders: A Subclass of Women?

Surrogacy is fast becoming one of the major issues of the 21st century—celebrities and everyday people are increasingly using surrogates to build their families. But the practice is fraught with complex implications for women, children, and families. What is the impact on the women who serve as surrogates and on the children who are born from surrogacy? In what ways might money complicate things? What about altruistic surrogacy done for a family member or close friend? Is surrogacy a beautiful, loving act or does it simply degrade pregnancy to a service and a baby to a product? Can we find a middle ground? Should we even look for one?

Available on AmazonInstant (free for Prime members) and DVD

“Breeders is a fascinating film that highlights the many tensions between women’s status, the free market demands of the fertility industry, and the fragmentation of women’s fertility and reproductive labor. This is a must-see film for all those who care about women and human rights.”
— Hedva Eyal, Medical Technologies Policy Researcher and feminist activist, Israel

“From the idealized view of surrogacy as an altruistic choice to satisfy an infertile couple’s longing for a child, Breeders moves through the too-often unexamined and disturbing reality of surrogacy. The film takes a compassionate look at the emotional and physical impact on the surrogate, but also, importantly, on the child. Breeders is an important new contribution to the dialogue about this unregulated and expanding practice.”
— Patricia Ireland, President of the National Organization for Women (NOW), 1991 – 2001, Author of What Women Want

Maggie’s Story

Maggie’s Story follows one woman’s journey of learning about “helping” others have a child they desperately want, what she discovered in becoming an egg donor, and the consequences that followed. Maggie was told how special she was, but she was never informed of the risks egg donation posed to her own health and well being. She was used repeatedly for others’ gain, but when things turned bad, she was left on her own to navigate tests, treatments, surgeries, and an unknown prognosis.

For those who are Amazon Prime members, Maggie’s Story is FREE! Others may rent the film for $2.99 or purchase it for $9.99.

“A must-watch film for anyone contemplating becoming an egg donor. Maggie’s Story shows how well meaning women who want to help others risk their own health and indeed lives, and how unscrupulous doctors put their profit before the egg donor’s state of health. Also, a must-watch for anyone contemplating using donated eggs for IVF or surrogacy. Remember, there is a woman from whose body these eggs come who might die because of your desire to have a child. Don’t proceed. Stop right now.”
— Renate Klein, Ph.D., women’s health researcher and FINRRAGE coordinator

“Anyone contemplating becoming an egg donor or using an egg donor must watch this film. To hear this woman’s chilling and sobering story of her journey into the Brave New World of reproductive technology is to see where trendy medical science and amoral market forces meet.”
— Eric Metaxas, New York Times Bestselling author

Study Guide

*Think Again: A Study Guide on the Legal, Medical, and Ethical Questions of Third Party Reproduction* is intended for a wide audience as we aim to meet the needs of high school groups, university students, law groups, church groups, and any other group interested in the issues of third party reproduction. This study guide is available for FREE in order to maximize distribution and use. You can download it here.
Anonymous Father’s Day Facebook Page

We have an active community of people who have been affected by and who are interested in issues, news, and discussion around sperm donation, donor conception, third-party reproduction, and related topics. Join us at https://www.facebook.com/AnonFathersDay/
About The Center for Bioethics and Culture

The Center for Bioethics and Culture Network (CBC) addresses bioethical issues that most profoundly affect our humanity, especially issues that arise in the lives of the most vulnerable among us. We work through a variety of media platforms—documentary film, writing, speaking, interviews, social media, and more—to educate and inform members of the general public, thought leaders, lawmakers, and others on ethical issues in healthcare, biomedical research, and biotechnological advancement.

The CBC Mission
The Center for Bioethics and Culture exists to educate and inform members of the general public, thought leaders, lawmakers, and others on ethical issues in healthcare, biomedical research, and biotechnological advancement. We intentionally bring together diverse voices from across the spectrum of human experience to build common cause in addressing the crucial questions that accompany these fields.

The CBC Vision
By working with cultural leaders and decision makers, progress in biotechnology will unite around a common human good promoting human flourishing.

*The Center for Bioethics and Culture is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our financials, 990s, etc. are available through [GuideStar](https://www.guidestar.org).*
Contact CBC

General Inquiries
info@cbc-network.org

Media Contact
media@cbc-network.org

CBC Speaker/Event Inquiry
If you would like to have Jennifer Lahl or someone else from the Center for Bioethics and Culture speak at or attend your event, please click here to fill out a CBC Speaker/Event Request

Mailing Address
The Center for Bioethics and Culture Network
3380 VINCENT RD STE HUB
PLEASANT HILL CA 94523-4324

Phone
925-407-2660

Social Media
• Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/cbcnetwork
• Twitter: http://twitter.com/CBCnetwork
• Vimeo: https://vimeo.com/cbcnetwork
• YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/user/CBCNetworkThe