



COLORADO

Gamete Bank and Fertility  
Clinic Program

# Education for Gamete & Embryo Donors - Highlights



- 1.** A child conceived with your egg or sperm will be genetically related to you and your genetic relatives.



- 2.** Donating gametes involves sharing certain personal information, which can impact your privacy and your relatives' privacy.



- 3.** Donation of gametes requires an on-going commitment and involves providing continuous updates about your contact and medical history.
- a. You will be contacted every 3 years to provide updated contact and medical information.
  - b. Donor-conceived persons born from your gametes and their parents will have access to your non-identifying medical information.



- 4.** Donor-conceived persons born from your gametes will be able to request your identifying information and contact information starting at age 18.



- 5.** You may be contacted by multiple people conceived with your gametes, or you may never be contacted by them.

- a. Information available to you about people conceived with your gametes may be limited.



- 6.** Consider the emotional and social impacts of donating gametes by seeking out counseling, asking for information from qualified professionals, and talking to people close to you about your decision to donate.





# Education for Gamete & Embryo Donors

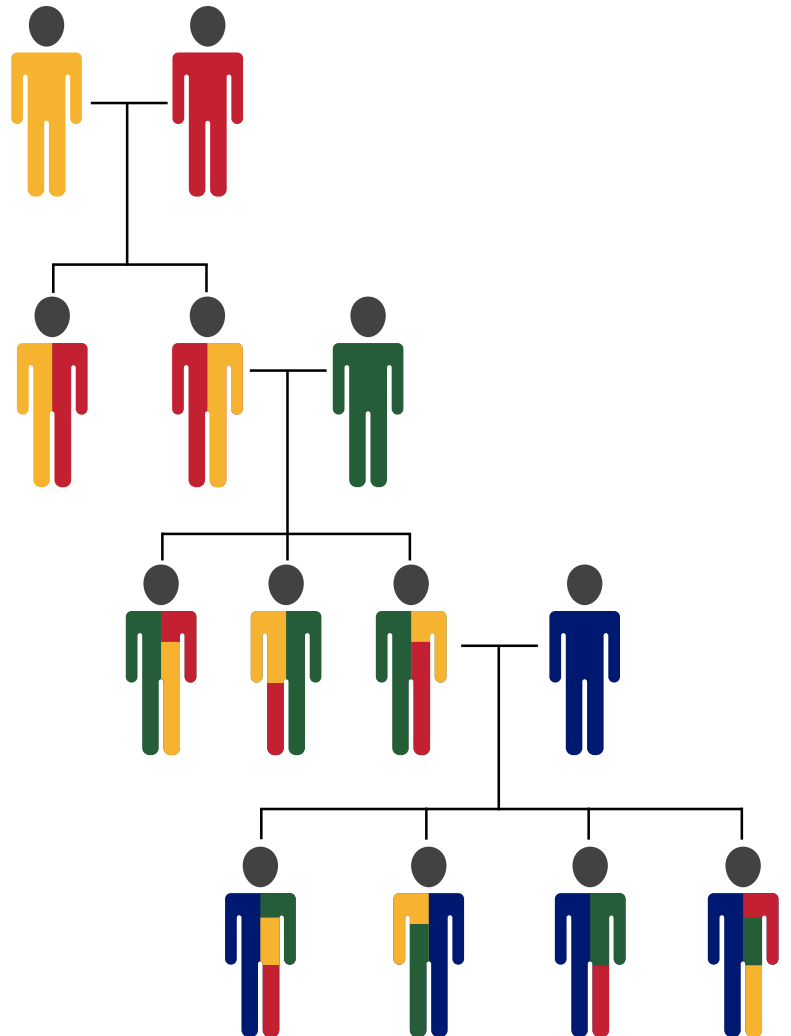


## INFORMATION TO CONSIDER BEFORE DONATING GAMETES

There are many things to consider before you donate sperm, eggs, or embryos. These materials can help you explore the implications of donation. Gamete (egg or sperm) or embryo donation may affect you (the donor), your family, and others in your life. [Medical professionals](#) and [licensed mental health providers](#) who are familiar with donor conception can answer additional questions and discuss any concerns. Gamete banks, gamete agencies, and fertility clinics must share and discuss this written material with you so you can make an informed decision about donation. You also may wish to speak with a lawyer about the legal implications of donation.

### Does a Donor-Conceived Person Share DNA with The Donor?

A child conceived with your egg or sperm will be genetically related to you and will inherit about 50% of their DNA from you. They will also be genetically related to your genetic relatives. This includes any of your other biological children, who will be related to the donor-conceived person as genetic "half siblings". Gamete donation also creates genetic connections to your other genetic relatives, including your parents, siblings, grandparents, and cousins. A child conceived through embryo donation may also have genetic "full siblings" raised by multiple families.



## Impacts of Gamete and Embryo Donation

It is important to consider the possible implications of future identity disclosure of your identity to people born from your donation. In the future, you may be contacted by people born from your gamete donation. You are encouraged to share and discuss your decision to donate with those close to you, particularly with your partner(s) and children.

There can be emotional, social, and long-term implications of donation. It is important to learn about donation and ask questions. In addition to the information covered here, you may seek out support or counseling. There are several ways you can find qualified counselors to help you understand the implications of gamete donation:

- Through your gamete bank, gamete agency, or fertility clinic
- Ask for a recommendation from your healthcare provider
- Contact a licensed mental health professional familiar with donor conception



### Emotional Impacts

Feelings about your decision to donate may change over time. You may feel positive, negative, neutral, or have mixed emotions about your donation.<sup>1,2,3,4</sup> It is important to carefully think about how you feel about the following aspects of donation:

1. You may have biological children among multiple families who you are unknown to and uninvolved with throughout their lives.
2. Many donor-conceived people have a strong desire to learn the identity of the donor.<sup>5,6,7,8,9,10</sup> You may be contacted by multiple people born from your gametes.<sup>11,12</sup> However, not all donor-conceived people want to contact the donor. It is possible that you might not be contacted by any people born from your gametes.
3. It is common for donors to express curiosity about children born from their donation.<sup>3,5,13</sup> However, the information available to you may be limited.

### Social Impacts

A variety of people use donated gametes to build their families. Recipient parents may come from diverse racial, cultural, religious, and socioeconomic backgrounds. They may have a variety of family structures and parenting approaches.

The decision to donate is a personal choice with long-term implications. The decision may impact your current and future relationships. Your family members may have a variety of feelings and opinions about donation, and these feelings may change over time. It may be beneficial to talk about your decision to donate with your partner(s), raised children, and extended family. Things to discuss include:

1. Identity disclosure and other donation-related commitments discussed in this document
2. Intentions for talking about donor conception with others
3. The possibility of unknown genetic children and other genetic relatives related to you through your gamete donation, which comes with the risk of accidental incest.<sup>13,14</sup>
4. Possible future contact with people born from your gametes



## Long-Term Implications

It is important to read and understand the donation policies and contracts. Discuss any questions or concerns with the gamete bank, gamete agency, or fertility clinic before signing a contract. Once the contract is signed and you have donated gametes, you may no longer have a choice about what happens to your gametes or embryos created with your gametes. Possible outcomes can include:<sup>13</sup>

- The use of your donated gametes for family building
- The disposal of unused gametes or embryos
- The donation of unused gametes or embryos to another family
- The use of gametes or embryos for research, training, and/or other use

Donating gametes involves sharing certain private information. You should consider your privacy and your relatives' privacy before donating. Consider how you feel about:

- The possible future disclosure of your identity to donor-conceived people who are age 18 or older
- The ongoing availability of non-identifying personal medical information to recipient parents and donor-conceived people upon request, including:<sup>15</sup>
  - Your medical history, medical conditions, and physical illnesses
  - Your family medical history (three generations)
  - Your social history, such as alcohol or drug use
  - Your genetic medical history, including any genetic test results

There are many ways a donor-conceived person, or their parents, may identify you or your relatives. This can happen before the donor-conceived person turns 18. Potential ways for a family to learn about you, the donor, include:

- Your donor profile from the bank, agency or clinic
- Donor sibling registries and directories hosted by a gamete bank, gamete agency, or third-party
- The release of your identifying information to a donor-conceived person age 18 years or older
- DNA tests, including those taken by you or your genetic relatives
- Facial recognition programs, social media, and other technologies
- Contact with people born from the same donor's gametes (donor siblings)
- Contact with your genetic relatives, family, or friends

## Medical Implications

Talk to a health care provider trained in reproductive medicine about the potential risks of donating gametes or going through egg retrieval cycles.<sup>14,15</sup>



# PROTECTIONS FOR DONOR-CONCEIVED PEOPLE UNDER COLORADO LAW (CO DCPPA)



## IDENTITY DISCLOSURE

The Donor-Conceived Persons Protection Act (DCPPA) provides rights to certain donor-conceived people born from gametes donated on or after January 1, 2025 through a Colorado-licensed gamete bank,

gamete agency, or fertility clinic. At age 18 or older, a donor-conceived person born from your gametes will be able to request your identifying information and contact information. This information includes your full name, date of birth, address, telephone number, and email address.

The licensed gamete bank, gamete agency, or fertility clinic that facilitated the donation process must keep your information. Your information must be released to the donor-conceived person upon request.<sup>16</sup> The donor-conceived person may choose to reach out to you immediately, in the future, or not at all. The DCPPA does not require you, the donor, to communicate or have a relationship with anyone. The DCPPA does not give you, the donor, the right to receive information about any people born from your gametes.



## FAMILY LIMITS

The DCPPA limits the number of families who can be established using a single donor's gametes to 25 families worldwide. There is no limit on the number of children born into each family. A family may

choose to donate gametes or embryos to other families, which could lead to more than 25 families. You can request a lower limit on the number of families formed with your gametes.

Discovery of more than 25 families created from a single donor's gametes should be reported to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and to the gamete bank, gamete agency, or fertility clinic.



## MEDICAL INFORMATION AND UPDATES

Gamete banks, gamete agencies, and fertility clinics must contact you every three years for medical

updates and contact information. Adult donor-conceived persons, or the parents of a minor, can ask for your non-identifying updated donor medical information at any time. If you have not been contacted or have learned new genetic health information, you can reach out to the gamete bank, gamete agency, or fertility clinic directly and/or contact the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.



## DONATION LIMITS

You must be 21 years of age or older to donate gametes.

An egg donor has a lifetime limit of six egg retrieval cycles. There is a possible exception for prior egg

donors who consent to an additional retrieval cycle for families intending to use the same donor to conceive an additional child.<sup>14</sup>



**TO REPORT CONCERNS  
TO CDPHE, EMAIL:**

[cdphe\\_dcphr\\_gametebankprogram@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe_dcphr_gametebankprogram@state.co.us)

## ENDNOTES

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Key contributors to these educational materials include: Donor Conceived Community; Jamie Spiers; Melanie Mikkelsen MSW, LICSW; Elizabeth Reisen LCSW; Joey Guzman-Kuffel, M.A., LMFT; and COLAGE.