

# DONORS

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# DONORS

## Curious Connections in Donor Conception

BY

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And

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

*For all touched by donor conception.*

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# GLOSSARY

- AI:** Acronym referring to ‘Artificial Insemination’. Insertion of sperm/ semen into the vagina, cervix or uterus using some form of a syringe. Widely used in clinical and non-clinical donation communities.
- CMS:** The Child Maintenance Service, previously referred to as the Child Support Agency (CSA). A UK service for parents who, usually after separation, have not been able to make a private arrangement about how their child’s living costs will be paid.
- DCN:** Acronym referring to the Donor Conception Network. Supports those considering using donor conception or have donor-conceived children, and donor-conceived people.
- Donation (egg, sperm or embryo):** The transfer of egg, sperm and embryos from one body to another for the purpose of helping someone other than self or a partner conceive.
- Donor:** Person who agrees to give away their gametes (egg, sperm or embryo) to another for the purpose of helping someone other than self or a partner conceive a child. See donation.
- Donor-conceived person/people:** Person or people born from donated egg, sperm or embryos.
- Donor offspring:** Refers to the person conceived from a specific donor’s donated egg, sperm or embryo. We use it as a relational term only, that is, to highlight the specific connection between a donor and the person/people conceived from their gametes. See also donor-conceived person/people.
- DSL:** Acronym referring to the Donor Sibling Link; a service provided by the HFEA to enable donor-conceived adults, conceived after 1 August 1991, to exchange contact details with people who share the same donor.
- Egg-share donor:** A person (or couple) undergoing IVF who opts to donate half of their eggs which are produced in a given cycle in return for free or (more commonly) discounted treatment.
- FET:** Acronym referring to ‘Frozen Embryo Transfer’. Refers to the process whereby a patient uses embryos frozen from a previous IVF cycle in a new embryo transfer.

Gestational surrogacy (also called host surrogacy):	An arrangement whereby a person carries a baby for another person or couple and where the surrogate does not have a genetic connection to the child. Gestational surrogacy arrangements require egg or embryo donation.
HFEA:	The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority. The UK independent regulator of fertility treatment and research using human embryos. The HFEA licenses, monitors and inspects UK-based fertility clinics and provides impartial information about treatments and donation.
HFE Act, 2008:	Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom. It constituted a major review and update of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, 1990.
Host surrogacy:	See Gestational surrogacy.
ICI:	Acronym referring to ‘Intracervical Insemination’. Same as IUI but the sperm is deposited onto the cervix rather than into the uterus.
ICSI:	Acronym referring to ‘Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection’. Procedure which may be done as part of IVF which involves the sperm being injected directly into the egg.
Identity-release donation:	A regulated form of donation pertaining to UK clinic-based donation practices (and some other jurisdictions) where donors are initially anonymous to recipients but must consent to identifying information about themselves being released to people conceived from their donation (often only after they have reached a given age. In the UK, age 18)
Intended parent/s:	A person or couple who conceives (or tries to conceive) using third-party reproduction (donated gametes or surrogacy) in order to have a child. See also Recipient parent/s.
IUI:	Acronym referring to ‘Intrauterine Insemination’. A fertility treatment performed in medical contexts that involves directly inserting sperm into the uterus.
IVF:	An acronym for ‘In Vitro Fertilisation’, literally meaning ‘in glass’ fertilisation. During IVF, egg and sperm are fertilised outside of the human body, in a laboratory. If fertilisation is successful, the resulting embryo is then transferred to the uterus with the aim of producing a pregnancy.
Known donation:	A donation arrangement where the donor and recipient parent/s have some level of personal knowledge of each other.
NI:	Acronym referring to ‘Natural Insemination’. Term used in online donation communities to refer to sperm being donated through the donor and recipient woman engaging in heterosexual intercourse.
Open donation:	A term used variably to refer either to identity-release donation or donation to a known recipient(s). See also known donation.
Recipient (parent/s):	A person or couple who use donated sperm, egg or embryo with the aim of conceiving a child which they will parent. See also intended parent.

ROPA method:	Acronym referring to 'Reception of Oocytes from the Partner'. Refers to when a lesbian couple conceive using IVF where one partner contributes eggs for the other partner to carry and gestate. Also referred to as 'intra-partner sharing', or 'reciprocal' or 'partner' IVF.
Self-arranged insemination:	Insemination which is organised by the donor and recipient(s) themselves, and which takes place outside of a clinical environment. Also referred to as 'home insemination'.
Sperm-share donor:	A person who donates sperm in exchange for free, or (more commonly), discounted, IVF treatment for them and their partner.
Surrogacy:	An arrangement whereby a person agrees to gestate a child for another person or couple, but does not intend to be the child's parent.
Surrogate:	A person who agrees to bear and birth a child for another person or persons; see surrogacy.
Traditional surrogacy:	An arrangement whereby a woman carries a baby for another person or couple, using their own eggs and so has a genetic link to the baby.