

Colorado Center for Reproductive Medicine (CCRM)

September 2020:

From an egg donor-conceived person:

"I was conceived with a donor egg at CCRM at the Lone Tree office in 1996. After finding out that I was donor conceived in 2016, I immediately began searching for answers. My parents had very limited information yet were able to give me a basic packet with some medical information and characteristics about my donor. There was no donor number included and there was no photo. Even after reading it, I was intrigued to learn more as my donor did select that she would be interested in talking to me once I had turned 18. I figured that I could contact the office and they would help me get in contact with her, as that is what she consented to. I initially contacted the office in 2016, and was given very short and cold answers.

Originally they told me that the records were in another building, and then after I followed up with no response, they told me that there had been paperwork that had been lost. I continued to search for more answers and try and rely on them as they had all of the info and I figured they would be open to helping me. I couldn't have been more wrong. After the lost paperwork scenario, they stated that they were unable to get in contact with her based off of the address she had provided in 1996. This made sense to me, but they gave me no support finding her new address, finding a new way of contacting her, or helping me navigate this situation. They were the people with all of the info, and felt as though they genuinely had no interest in helping me search.

I continued to contact them and email them trying to get more information and I even had one person at their office tell me that "they had her packet and looked at her photo". After about a year of this back and forth contact, they told me that they felt as though they didn't know how to help me anymore. Within the past couple of months, I have begun working on my own to find my donor and have taken advantage of resources such as the DSR as well as facebook groups for donor conceived individuals.

I ended up doing 23 and me in 2019 and through 23 and me I connected with a variety of individuals but it was difficult as none of them were closely related to me. I ended up having an individual in the group help me find my donor, who I was able to find within a day or so. We are now in contact and are going to meet- she always had wanted me to be able to contact her and it is frustrating for both of us that CCRM would not keep their word and help donor conceived individuals find their donors when it was what the donor consented to.

This whole situation and search was extremely emotionally draining for me as I felt as though CCRM was not recognizing my own emotional needs or recognizing the rights that donor conceived individuals should have. I had a really difficult experience working with

them and I hope that CCRM can educate themselves more on the rights of donor conceived individuals and how they are feeling."