

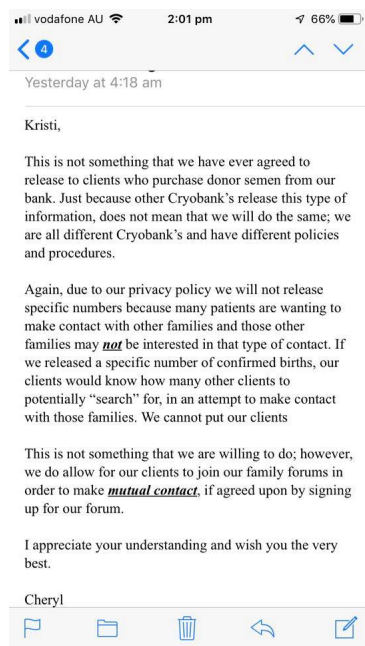
FAIRFAX (Genetics & IVF for Egg Donation & CLI both under same parent Company)

10/2018

DSR Facebook Group

Fairfax Cryobank - has anyone been given the exact number of reported live births by Fairfax? They are refusing to give me a number claiming it will breach client privacy even though I keep stating I am not asking for identifying details or even what country the births have been reported.

I have a 2 year old and feel so guilty and sad that I didn't know what a bad reputation Fairfax had prior to sperm purchase, I just naively trusted my fertility clinic. Attached is their final email to me, there have been about 20 back and forth between us.



They can't "release" the number of births because they don't know how many children are born to any one donor. Their email is bogus, as knowing how many doesn't affect one's search capabilities.

From another poster: Honestly, they do not know how many live births anyone donor has. They do not keep records and then blame doctors for not reporting live births. When Our donor reached 100 live births, that we knew about, we contacted Fairfax ... who had no idea that a we knew about each other and that we knew there were that many! They pulled him from the market at that point that was almost 6 years of him donating. Today as of this week we now have 190 known offspring Fairfax probably does not have a record of that either. I asked if the planned to tell our donor that he had a large number of offspring and their answer was no.

From another poster: They don't keep track. All they care about is that any births have been reported, so they can say the donor is fertile. My doctor reported but advised me to also report myself, just in case. I did so, and they had no record that my doc had reported the birth. Years later, when I contacted them again about something, they had no record that I had ever reported.

From another poster: Fairfax simply does not keep track. My son is one of almost 150 kids and he was number 2 born. When I went to Fairfax 15 years ago they told me that they would cap at 25 births. I am infuriated how many children that there are from one donor and in fact we have another family AT OUR SAME TEMPLE with children from the same donor.

9/2017	DSR Facebook Group
<p style="text-align: center;">“Over the years a couple families in our DC family reported to Fairfax a high rate (1 in 5) of neurological disorders in the group. I called Fairfax a couple of days ago and the genetics counselor claims that no one has called in.”</p>	

8/2017	Personal Email
<p>"My children are now almost 7 years old and in first grade. As my son has grown, there have been increasing signs that there is something different about him. He struggles to remain focused in school, has bouts of aggressiveness, and trouble socially, or at least differently than other children his age. I've seen a variety of therapists, doctors, etc. He now has an IEP at school and a one to one aide. It has been suggested that he is high functioning on the autism spectrum. I have gone back to Fairfax Cryobank several times over the years to seek more medical information. They have denied having anything, then finally revealed that there have been reports of autism from a few offspring but I shouldn't worry because there are "40+ offspring in the U.S. and 40+ overseas." I was shocked by that number because they advertised a limit of 15 pregnancies. I feel that this creates a complicated situation for my children as they age. Might I have a case of fraud against Fairfax Cryobank?"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Over the years a couple families in our DC family reported to Fairfax a high rate (1 in 5) of neurological disorders in the group. I called Fairfax a couple of days ago and the genetics counselor claims that no one has called in.</p>	

6/2017	FDA Citizen's Petition (https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FDA-2017-P-0052)
<p>"I just today found out that my two sons, ages 12 and 14, were not conceived by the donor that I requested through the cryobank. I have been in touch with their "half siblings" parents for over 10 years now, only to find out TODAY that they are not related. If it were not for DNA testing, I would never have found out. We need regulations on these cryobanks so that these types of issues do not happen to anyone else. The donor that I chose was a decision that I made very carefully. I based it not just on physical features, but on personality traits, education, and most importantly, medical history. So, now instead of having a donor with what I thought was a good medical history, I have subjected my two kids to something that has never fun in my family...Alzheimers, and Brain Cancer! This is unacceptable! We must have regulation so that this does not happen to anyone else. "</p> <p>Further Explanation from the mom on the DSR's Facebook Page: "I am the mother who this happened to and who wrote this. I just found out a few days ago. I, along with two other mothers who I thought had my son's "half-siblings", were all doing DNA tests for our kids. The first indication was that the test said that my son was 27.1% Finnish. I had already done my parents family trees, so I knew that was not from my side of the family, so I assumed it was the donor, although it was not on his profile. Then, one mother, who did a different DNA test told me that her son's test showed very little Finnish in him. When another mother got her daughters DNA back, from the same company as I used, 23 & me, her daughter also had very little Finnish in her. Lastly , my son did not show up as a match to her daughter on 23 & me. Shock and panic set in. Wendy advised me to call Fairfax, which I did. They said that I ordered a different donor than I ordered. I KNOW that this is incorrect. First, I ordered it online, which is where you go to your choice of donor, then you choose which type of specimen than you need, plug in the amount, enter your credit card and hit that magic button. It is not like you have to even put in a number. And, they mail it directly to your doctor, along with the invoice. I have the</p>	

fertility clinic seeing if they can find any paperwork, but it has been 15 years. What I believe happened is that they were out of my choice, so gave me one that was close enough in appearance, never thinking that DNA testing would come into play years later. So, my boys have lost 15 known half-siblings and a donor whose voice they have listened to, a baby picture that they have seen, and all the things that I told them were similar traits to their "bio dad". Don't get me wrong...I am thrilled to even have them. They are my miracles. But Fairfax did the most unethical thing ever. My partner and I spent a lot of time picking out our donor, and I know who we picked out. I had been through many inseminations and a couple of other donors before this. I finally decided to do IVF, so we chose a donor who had already had pregnancies resulting from his donations. We wanted someone at least 6', with my coloring, a good medical history, and all of the other things we look for when choosing a donor. We got who Fairfax picked for us, not who we picked. My kids are almost 13 and 15, and I have not told them yet. All I ever wanted was to be honest with them about where they came from. Now, I have to tell them that their lives are not what they have been told. I almost wish that I had never done the test. But, I did, and it is what it is. Again, at least I have my boys.....my miracles. Fairfax.....well, all that I can say is that I hope that whoever did this can sleep good at night."

Reply on Facebook page: "Fairfax has lied to all of us over and over again. So far, my son is related to at least 2 of his 180+ 1/2 sibs who we know did DNA (kids are teens) but most of the kids (age range 16-5 months) are kids and have not done DNA testing."

5/2017	Personal Email
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"Fairfax is charging me \$150 to look up our donor number."

3/2017	FDA Citizen's Petition (https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FDA-2017-P-0052)
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My Fairfax ID donor committed suicide in 2013. I learned of his death one week after the birth of my second child in 2016. That means I posthumously conceived one or both of my children with a Fairfax Cryobank donor. I did not consent to this, and I do not know if the donor would have consented to this.

When we were making the critical decision on who would be biological father of our children, we specifically required two things: 1) the donor had to be an "ID option" donor so that our children would have the access to learn as much, or as little, about their biological father as they desire; and 2) the donor have no history of mental illness.

In the two sentence informal letter I received in 2016, Fairfax advised me that the donor committed suicide in 2013. Fairfax said they last got a medical update on the donor in 2013 and no mental illness was reported or "noted by any staff member". As a result of Fairfax's lack of action, my children have not only lost their right to seek out their donor at age 18, but they also may or may not have inherited a predisposition to suicide. Fairfax still has this donor listed on their website as "inactive" - with no indication whatsoever that he is dead.

This is unconscionable. The FDA needs to step in and regulate this industry on a federal level. Fairfax is charging \$150 to look up our donor number

1/2017	DSR Facebook Page
<p>I asked Fairfax if they could tell me even the number of offspring, and they replied, "We do not report our specific number of pregnancies, but our records indicate under 10 reported births." Note that we already know our clan includes more than thirty.</p>	

3/2016	DSR Facebook Page
<p>I contacted them (CLI) several times to let them know of health concerns of my son and they never contacted the donor siblings. On top of that, they never had it recorded that we had 4 offspring with this donor, something I called and reported myself.</p>	

3/2016	DSR Facebook Page
<p>Our children have some genetic concerns (sperm donor conceived). We called the bank to let them know and so they could inform other families and were given the total brush off.</p> <p>Genetics & IVF Institute (same parent company). From a former egg donor:</p> <p>"I donated my eggs four different times at Genetics & IVF Institute in Fairfax, VA in the 90s/early 00s. Since then I discovered I carry a gene which means I'm at a much higher risk for getting several types of cancer. Since then I've tried to contact Genetics & IVF Institute so that they can relay this information to my offspring (they have a 50/50 chance of inheriting it) but they were not interested and it was obvious that they were not going to inform the families despite the fact early screening could potentially save these children's lives.</p> <p>I've recently turned 42 years old and I was just told this week that I most likely have Ovarian cancer (this will be confirmed through pathology after surgery) and that I will need my ovary removed asap. I don't know if this is because of donating my eggs when I was younger or because of my family history. It's very upsetting either way."</p> <p>From another egg donor: "</p> <p>As Wendy knows and I have said here before, I notified GIVF in 2005 (7 yrs after donation) that I had been diagnosed with a genetic condition. Someone there promised that they would pass along the information to any recipients. Last year, through DSR, a recipient and I made contact. No, they had not been notified. I imagine this happens a lot.</p> <p>"</p>	

1/2016	DSR Website
<p>Fairfax listed me as anonymous even though I had signed several documents that allowed for my information to be given out.</p>	

12/26/15	DSR Facebook Page
<p>Our donor used both CCB and Fairfax; but when he contacted Fairfax they said his records were destroyed so they did not give him his</p>	

donor number for Fairfax and said if anyone contacted them looking for him they would not help.

5/10/15 DSR Facebook Page

I reported back twice to fairfax....having my dr. fax them records....I have verbally told them on several occasions, and they STILL don't have me on record as a donor parent. Same experience with a fellow donor sibling parent.

Fairfax claimed that none of us (parents) reported when our sibling group hit 100 kids....yet we all had reported, Fairfax really did not keep good records. Even violated their own births per capita rule.... I am sure our donor would faint if he heard our numbers....like I said our bank stopped selling when WE knew off 100 births, we are up to 163 that we know by name and other identifying info! I think the bank should make the donor aware so he can alert any children he has so they know of the other sibs out there.

I reported to Fairfax and they didn't seem particularly interested. The lady was rushing to get me off the phone and I doubt she was writing anything down. Another time I called there to ask about the large amount of siblings and why they were still selling my donor's sperm. They said they follow all applicable laws. That says a lot since there are no laws.

8/10/14 DSR Facebook Page

1. Wendy,

We recently identified our donor via DNA testing and a geneticist. I sent him a message yesterday and he said he had called the bank (Fairfax), and asked to change his status to known and they would not do it. He said at the time of donation (20 yrs ago) they did not give him the option to be known but he told them he was ok with contact. My point is, they DENIED him and the families this option. He said he anxiously awaited the day he would be found. It angers me that the bank took it upon themselves to deny his request. Thankfully, now we have mutual contact. Thank you for all you do!

2. I am a donor to one of their affiliates and they have denied me too!

3. Same thing happened to us with Fairfax. At the time (13 y ago), they did not offer known donors. We were torn as we liked our choice of donor but wanted that option. Fairfax told us they were in the process of changing to have known donors and that they were asking donors that if it changed, they would want to be known. They said our donor said Yes. We were under the impression years later with our second child that now that they had known donors, ours would now be known/willing. They said 'sorry, all donors already in the program status cannot be changed'.

4. I, too, donated more than 20 yrs ago at Fairfax. I've tried all methods of which I could think to get Fairfax to open my record to anyone seeking it. They denied me every time, and have continued to deny me. They wouldn't even tell me my own donor number. Fortunately, one biological son found me on the DSR. Although he didn't know my donor number, my biological daughter's mom happened to notice that my son's mother posted his donor's number which was the same as her daughter's donor's number. Complicated, yes... but I now have ongoing contact and am building relationships with one son and one daughter who both, for varying reasons, are interested in relationship with me. I'll always be thankful (as I hope they know) to Wendy and Ryan for all they and their DSR do!

4/2/13 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/15611>

Wendy,

We recently identified our donor via DNA testing and a geneticist. I sent him a message yesterday and he said he had called the bank (Fairfax), and asked to change his status to known and they would not do it. He said at the time of donation (20 yrs ago) they did not give him the option to be known but he told them he was ok with contact. My point is, they DENIED him and the families this option. He said he anxiously awaited the day he would be found. It angers me that the bank took it upon themselves to deny his

request. Thankfully, now we have mutual contact. Thank you for all you do!

I have a DC child conceived in 2008 using sperm from Fairfax Cryo using an "open" donor. We've connected with 11 families via DSR. Four (from four families) of the fourteen children (including my child) were born in Manhattan, NY. NYC can seem like a big city, but it shrinks considerably when you are from here. I'm concerned about the number of possible half-siblings that may exist.

To date, only two mom households and single moms by choice households have connected on the DSR. I've contacted Fairfax on a number of occasions to try and get the total count. The only answer that I receive from them is that there are "20+ reported pregnancies."

Has anyone been successful in obtaining a more accurate count from Fairfax? If so, how can I go about obtaining this info?

1/9/13 | Email to Wendy Kramer

[From a mother whose child has a neurological condition and severe developmental delay.]
Fairfax has not been very receptive. I called when our daughter was 1 yr old, and the geneticist wouldn't give me any info and asked me to call or email back, to which she hasn't responded.

9/29/12 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/15356>

I understand how you feel because I am a Mom of a child who is part of a very large donor group. In our case it was Fairfax. I think these banks like the donors who sell and it is all about the money for them. If you KNOW about 40 families be sure there are more out there. There are plenty of people who never report their pregnancy and never discuss the fact that their child was donor conceived.

My daughter will always know the facts of her conception. I am hoping that will decrease the chances that she will meet and date any half siblings when she grows up.

9/17/12 | Email to DSR

One area we haven't discussed is health. I'm sure you got the email from Fairfax about the Walker Warburg Syndrome. We got it when my partner was 36 weeks pregnant. Talk about scary. I guess I would like to inform you that my son does have a congenital heart disease. We don't know how serious it is at this point. Fairfax has handled it horribly and we aren't too happy with their service, but that's another story. They have known for 3 months that he has this condition and the genetics counselor is dodging my phone calls. Very frustrating. I feel they should be informing the other parents of his condition.

8/20/12 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/15298>

Your level of participation – three times a week for two years and two times a week for two years – adds up to approximately 450 samples. David Plotz in his article in Slate magazine reported that Fairfax will break a sample in to 10 to 14 vials. Even if we assume a more conservative estimate, say eight vials, that would equal 3600 vials. Your sperm would have been used in thousands of carefully timed pregnancy attempts. Your experience illustrates why this particular sperm bank produces donors with prodigious numbers of offspring.

In your post you state that you had two matches. Is that, in fact, the sum total of your matches? Given your level of participation and the known willingness of Fairfax to use donors virtually without limitation, your number of matches is remarkably low. I understand that when you were a donor (1988-1993) most of the consumers were heterosexual couples. This group generally does not inform their children of the circumstances of their conception. Even so, you must have hundreds of children and yet only two matches.

Does this not reflect the reality that donors and their offspring, from the early 90s and before, have a very small chance of connecting with each other?

8/18/12	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/15268
<p>One additional thing you can try is to do a Google search for your cryobank and your donor number, now that you know it, for example "Fairfax ####" or "Fairfax Cryobank ####". Of course the DSR is the #1 source for everything related to this, but there are also other groups, such as Yahoo groups, that are out there. (As you have found out, the Fairfax Cryobank forum is run by dictators, otherwise that would also be a good source.)</p> <p>My son was conceived through donor sperm, and I connected with a large group of parents with children from this Fairfax donor through that Yahoo group. My son has about 30 half-siblings, based upon the amount of families and children in that group. I hope some day the donor connects as well.</p>	

8/17/12	Email to Wendy Kramer
<p>I am not sure if this information is useful to anyone. On Fairfax's website, under the Why Choose Fairfax tab, they advertise a private forum for donor families.</p> <p>It says, "Register for this forum if you have an offspring by a Fairfax Cryobank donor and want to connect with half-siblings. Fairfax Cryobank will post medical updates here and offer a place to post your child's photo. To protect your privacy, we'll make sure posts are anonymous. NO POSTS ARE VISIBLE UNTIL YOU ARE GRANTED ACCESS TO THIS FORUM."</p> <p>I have a child from a Fairfax donor and gone through their online registration a couple of times. It has been a month or so since my last attempt and I still have not been "granted access". As a matter of fact I have gotten no reply.</p>	

8/17/12	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/15263
<p>In response to post 15260, below: Your story is nearly identical to mine. And I maintain the same frustration with Fairfax Cryobank. The Cryobank is not protecting anyone's privacy who wants that privacy protected, so I assume they have business reasons of their own for wanting to maintain separation/secretcy. Sad.</p>	

8/17/12	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/15260
<p>A little preface, I am a Fairfax Cryobank donor. I started donating in Houston in 1988 and honestly, I do not remember ever being asked if I wanted to remain anonymous, but I was assured that recipients would never be able to access records to know who I was, so, I respect their policies for my privacy. Then and now, however, when I tried contacting them last year, they would not even give me my donor number so that I could register on the DSR, a completely voluntary and neutral website, with my correct donor number, so I could make contact with and share information with those, and families of those, who share DNA with me. Wendy directed me to this news group and the archived donor lists and I quickly found my donor number beside my description from a 1990 Fairfax donor catalog. With nervous anxiety I went back to the DSR and entered my number and there were two matches, Boy born 1994, Boy born 1996. I completed the health and FAQ questionnaire and then posted myself. I have made contact with both families and the reception, responses, communication, picture sharing (Facebook) has been spectacular, far, far beyond my expectations. The communication has naturally slowed down, but the line is open either way and it is peaceful. A bit more about the donating years, I started donating in roughly October of 1988 and donated nearly 3 times a week for 2 years, then stopped for about a year and then restarted in 1991, donating an average of 2 times per week for the next two years, finally stopping in 1993.</p> <p>When I returned in 1991, the clinic director told me, in his exact words, "thank goodness you came back, we have families wanting second and third children and we are all out of your specimen". This was amazing when he told me and I quickly did some math in my head.</p> <p>As I said previously, the communication and appreciation I have received from the two families on the DSR, has been phenomenal. And it has created a desire in me to find more families, but none have listed on the DSR</p>	

and Fairfax is no help. I have emailed back and forth with the Fairfax Forums Moderator and registered for the Fairfax forums, but to date, not one of my threads have been approved to post in their forums. I am not approved to be in their private forum. In the emails back and forth with the moderator, trying to use the health questionnaire as a bargaining tool, I pleaded my case to know how many births. I was told, "there are reported births, but there aren't any seeking information in our private forum. These forums are for consumers of our product and not for donors, but changes are happening all the time, so check back in a couple months." It is aggravating to put yourself out there for contact and be met with such resistance, as if I am doing something wrong. Before I digress, I will progress. It just seems odd to me that there aren't more curious young adults and/or families listed on the DSR. Makes me wonder if back in the late 80's/early 90's, families just weren't telling their children and continue to keep it secret. The one entity that could easily supply me with the one piece of information I am so curious to find, will not even allow me on their forums. Is it a crime to just tell me the number of births? I will probably never know. All I can do is wait. Thank you for reading.

8/13/12 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/15250>

Interestingly, Fairfax Cryobank, where we bought the sperm will not release units that people already bought and stored. They will to the original purchaser, but not if they want to transfer ownership. They had a policy that you could always transfer ownership but now they will not honor that. They also will not refund the money to people they are not letting transfer. In my case they are not storing my vials, but I thought it was an interesting tidbit.

6/23/12 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/15224>

Cryolab and Fairfax both have Family Forums which include private forums for purchasers of specific donors (so one separate private forum for each donor) which function as a sort of sibling registry. We have found about half of our daughter's donorsibs on the forum (the other half on the DSR).

If your donor had a CLI number, you should be able to register for the private forum for that donor.

The forums are at <http://www.cryolab.com/forums/index.php> and <http://www.fairfaxcryobank.com/forum/>
The forums are free to join.

2/24/12 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14961>

A year and a half or so ago I got an email from Fairfax stating that someone reported a pregnancy (not birth) with a problem and if I wanted more info to call the genetic counselor... So I did and was told it was a neural tube defect called anencephaly (absence of a portion of skull, not compatible with life)...From my experience in the field, this was likely a mom issue, likely related to lack of folic acid rather than a sperm issue and I said that to the genetic counselor... She acknowledged that that was likely true as well, but said that it was their policy to pull the donor... Donor is no long available unless a family has a child by this donor, wants a full sibling, and signs a waiver... If I was going to have another child which I am not, I would use the same donor.

2/23/12 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14957>

I was in a similar situation, also with Fairfax. In my case I was in the third trimester when I was notified by my doctor that a child from the donor had been diagnosed with a metabolic disorder, which meant my daughter had a 50% chance of having gotten the gene from him. (I also got my own letter from Fairfax within days.) If I was also a carrier, there was a 25% chance my baby would have the disorder. It was something routinely tested for at birth in my state, so I would know one way or the other then.

...

The donor is now supposed to be available only to families who already have a child from his sperm and sign a waiver. I don't think I would choose to use him again and definitely only after getting tested myself. Assuming I'm not a carrier I might go ahead, but I'm still hesitant knowing any kids would have that 50% chance of being a carrier.

2/23/12 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14954>

I too used a Fairfax donor who had a child with neural defect-- found out after the fact. My doctor stated this is more than likely not genetic, but a lack of folic acid.

2/18/12 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14935>

My partner and I will be trying to have a child soon, and the hardest part of the process is trying to find the "perfect" bank. It seems that every bank we liked we were able to find some damaging information which made us scared to use that bank. Xytex and Fairfax - too many kids, not enough open donors.

2/8/12 Richard Hatch's guest blog: <https://www.donorsiblingregistry.com/blog/?p=357>

I wrote to the Fairfax Genetics and IVF Institute saying I wanted to release them from their promise to keep my identity private. I also asked them for my donor number in the hopes of someday connecting with any of my offspring or their families who might want to know me. However to my utter dismay and distress, Fairfax Genetics and IVF Institute was adamant they would never release my identity to any offspring or recipients. They also denied me the right to know my own donor number.

2/4/12 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14899>

I used Fairfax and have a healthy 2 yr old daughter. I do suggest cross-checking potential donors against the dsr donor list for possible health issues.

2/3/12 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14897>

Knowing what I know now, the choice to go with Fairfax would have been a much harder and nuanced one. But at the end of the day, I really had a gut feeling from what I read, saw and listened to (audio interview) on the donor I chose.

I wish that Fairfax had some different practices now, and I believe that in large part based on the advocacy of the DSR and other groups, that Fairfax will eventually amend their practices. But I don't regret choosing a Fairfax donor. I have a very healthy son and we've made contact through The DSR with a biological sister already. Our donor happens to be 75% Mexican, so I know about the scarcity issue when searching for a particular ethnicity.

All I can recommend is to be aware of consequences and look for the donor that feels right. If he happens to be from Fairfax or another bank with objectionable practices, make your complaints known in advance.. The more push back they get, the more pressure they will feel.

2/3/12 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14896>

I agree. Don't use Fairfax.

2/3/12 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14891>

Both Xytex and Fairfax have the greatest number of large offspring groups.

2/2/12 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14889>

Don't use Fairfax.

1/30/12 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14872>

I would think the best way to make this [Fairfax's refusal to give donors their own donor numbers] stop is for people who are considering buying sperm to call them on it. Let choice Moms groups, fertility groups and

anyone who has a voice with women considering using donor sperm know about this practice. If no one is buying they have no business.

Most of the people I know who used Fairfax did so because of the amount of information we could get about the donor. They have a nice flashy website with all types of info. They don't let anyone know about this practice.

I used Fairfax. I have an awesome daughter so I am not sorry I did. However, they have lied about a lot of things and have a very shady business. I wish people knew BEFORE buying from them.

1/30/12 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14870>

I was contacted today by another former Fairfax Cryobank donor who is outraged that the sperm bank will not give him his donor number, thereby making it impossible, at this point, to connect with any offspring he might have. Sometimes donors can scroll through the Fairfax list and find themselves by the donor descriptions, but not always. This man says, "I am disappointed in Fairfax in not releasing the donor numbers if they are requested by the donors themselves. I do not understand their insensitivity to people who want to know their backgrounds and donors who are willing to provide this information. Please post this on your blog when you get a chance."

Fairfax Cryobank, please start putting the needs and the rights of the families before your own concerns of liability. Yes, if you give donors their donor numbers many will find out that you did not limit the number of children born from their donations. (see the 9/2011 NY Times article about the donor with more than 150 offspring). But you are also deliberately prohibiting the updating and sharing of medical information and mutual consent contact amongst genetic relatives. This must stop.

1/12 | Email to Wendy Kramer

It sounds like Fairfax may have mislabeled some of their donor vials - at least three of the children conceived via this donor have much a lighter-than-expected complexion and very European (not Afro-American or Cherokee) features. 2 of the parents I spoke to were very, very angry about the situation, and did not feel as though Fairfax was being helpful or forthcoming.

12/11 | Email to Wendy Kramer

Fairfax was less than helpful when I called to even ask about reactivating our donor and basically asked for a 6k dollar check before giving us much information.

10/26/11 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14692>

Fairfax Cryobank and Cryogenic Labs (CLI) are still refusing to give former sperm donors and adult donor conceived people access to their donor numbers. This prohibits families from making mutual consent contact. This prohibits the sharing of medical and genetic information amongst genetic relatives. This takes away the opportunity from many donors who were never properly educated or counseled about donor anonymity, from changing their minds and reaching out to make mutual consent contact with the children they helped to create.

As we wonder why....it is very clear that this has nothing to do with what is in the best interests of the former donors, or the children born from donor insemination, it is only serving the best interests of the sperm bank itself. More donors just might find out that they to have more than 150 donor offspring. More offspring just might learn that they have many half siblings, some who have tried to report medical issues to the sperm banks. This is an effort by the sperm banking industry to keep information like this from becoming public. This industry desperately needs oversight, transparency, accurate record keeping, and a code of ethics.

From a Fairfax/CLI Representative:

"We can provide the customer who purchased the vials the donor number if they do not know it. We do not provide donor number's to any children born from a donor. If the donor was an anonymous donor, we will not assist any offspring trying to make contact with the donor. The donors also do not get to know their numbers."

10/16/11 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14658>

There is no way they kept to limits of 25 - 30 family groups. My donor has about 75 family groups that I am aware of. There have to be a lot more if we are aware of that many.

10/8/11 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14610>

I just watched the Style Network show which featured Ben the sperm donor with, so far, 70 known children. If Ben has 70 known children it is a sure thing that he has at least that many who are unknown. Few heterosexual couples tell their children about the circumstances of their conception, and it is still a minority of single women and lesbian couples who are actively seeking their donor.

Ben donated at Fairfax Cryobank which I believe is the world leader in offering donors who have prodigious quantities of children. Effectively, they have no limits on the number of children they allow a donor to produce. The show illustrated some of the consequences of the mercenary greed of this sperm bank. Ben has a fiance who wants an exclusive relationship with him and their future children. On the other hand, this likable and well-intentioned man is willing to have meaningful contact with his biological children. He cannot possibly reconcile his fiance's desire for a normal family life with his willingness to be known and to interact with his horde of children. As his friend said in the piece, "you can't go to 70 birthday parties". After the 5th or 10th or 20th contact this guy is going to say enough.

We know that sperm banks accept a small percentage of donor candidates. As I understand it, the sperm of most men does not remain viable after freezing and thawing. Also, the bank wants a high sperm count so that multiple vials can be produced from each sample. As a result, it is expensive to find an acceptable donor who can produce viable sperm in quantity. If the decision-makers at a sperm bank have no ethics they will continue to use a popular, available donor until the cows come home.

I was a donor in the late 1980s. At that time the American Fertility Society guidelines called for a limit of 10 children per donor. Aside from the possibility of accidental incest, or the passing of some heritable defect to a virtual tribe of people, is it not just common sense to limit the number of offspring? I hope you are not reading this Ron Paul, but these people need to be regulated. Their choosing to act in their untrammelled self-interest is causing active harm.

10/1/11 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14597>

I was also inseminated w/ a Fairfax donor in the early 90s... in April 1991 and my son was born in December 1991. Throughout the years I contacted Fairfax about obtaining any kind of info on the donor and/or half siblings. They never would disclose anything. When my son turned 18 he also tried to get info... again a brick wall. They did advise him of a forum where he could post a message, which he did, to no avail. The older he gets, the more curious he is.

10/1/11 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14596>

Some of the retired donors are no longer on Fairfax's website. My donor is a donor with a large sibling group. If I go to Fairfax and search his number it comes up as not found. If you just check his traits in the search he is not there either. I think they removed all his info because there were complaints about the number of births.

9/30/11 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14590>

I didn't know until after we had our children through a donor from Fairfax Cryobank that they did not give their donors their actual donor numbers. This just seems ridiculous to me. The only people of the Donor

Sibling Registry are there voluntarily and know that there are possibilities of finding donors and siblings; therefore, it isn't a breach of privacy by either parties. I do think that the donors should know if they go to the Fairfax Cryobank website and search for "themselves" on the donor list they would have a great chance in finding their donor numbers. They can put in their height, weight, eye color, hair color/type, and ethnic background they gave to the facility and simply click search. From that list they can narrow the results down by using some of the free downloads the site offers (donor audio clips, medical profiles, and a donor essay) which are written by the donor or from information obtained from the donor. This sounds tedious, but it really isn't. In fact I think if most donors know their own information it should only take them a few minutes to find themselves.

9/20/11 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14524>

I was reading more about this number of offspring/sibling issue and interestingly I have been trying to get in touch with the sperm bank for some time to register the birth of my daughter.

I was in touch with the fertility clinic who told me I needed to report with Fairfax Cryobank who told me I needed to report with CanAm Cryo who has still not responded to my inquiries by email.

I am starting to wonder if they are limited by the amount of sperm they can sell based on 'number of reported births' and if they discourage the reporting of births so they can continue to sell the sperm?

Wondering if a good idea is to include a 'use-by' date so buyers would have a time limit they need to act by and the sperm banks / fertility clinics would have to comply. I realize people could have the choice to take it home and store it, however, it could help with the number of offspring from an individual donor.

9/15/11 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14497>

Since last week's NY Times article about a donor sibling group of 150, many concerned families, and some sperm banks have contacted me to find out which sperm banks produced the largest number of large half sibling groups on the DSR.

Although the DSR does have open records, that is, anyone can search through any of the sperm bank's listings on our site, here are the sperm banks that do have the most large numbers of half sibling groups that we know about on the DSR:

Fairfax, Xytex, New England Cryogenic Center (NECC), Midwest, Cryogenic Labs (CLI), and Pacific Reproductive Services (PRS). Some of these sperm banks ship sperm to small clinics and facilities around the world, so half siblings can also be in Canada, Mexico, Australia, etc.

7/21/11 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14373>

Currently, there are only 18 donors of African American descent at three of the major banks (Fairfax, California Cryobank, and Xytex) in the U.S. It is much worse for other ethnic groups.

7/8/11 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14293>

Please contact me if you have used Fairfax donor ####. Because there is a high number of reports for a certain genetic/medical disorder, there is a genetics researcher that is interested in studying your group.

Also, if you do have a child from this donor who does have the disorder, it's very important that you report it to Fairfax. They only have one family reporting the issue so far (while there are several families noting it on the DSR), so have refused to notify all families.

For all families, in addition to adding medical/genetic issues on your "medical" page on the DSR (only viewable by others sharing your donor number) it is important to report everything to your sperm bank as well.

5/13/11	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14167
<p>I've just learned that my '88 donor from Fairfax also has an off spring from California Cryobank; in '88 I was on a waiting list for fresh sperm, 2 days before my insemination cycle they switched to frozen (re AIDS). I called Fairfax and asked the lab tech about my soon to be donor, she said he was "really cute and nice to his girlfriend". I wonder if they told that to ALL donor recipients who called about ALL donors; was my donor originally at Fairfax or California Cryobank?</p>	
3/9/11	Full article: http://donorsiblingregistry.com/The%20Truth%20About%20Donor%201084.pdf
<p>The Truth About Donor 1084 In July 2004, George contacted Fairfax to report Ethan's medical problems. Because she had no family history of blood disorder, eczema or egg allergies, she worried Donor 1084 had passed them on to Ethan--and might do it again to other offspring.</p>	
3/11	Email to Wendy Kramer
<p>It is laughable and insults my intelligence that they think this letter even begins to address their wrongdoing or explains away their culpability.</p> <p>The following statement is absolute BS:</p> <p><i>Fairfax Cryobank has a production limit for each donor and that production limit is based on a formula to calculate the expected number of offspring that could be produced from the use of the donor's samples.</i></p> <p>The reality is that Fairfax sells any donor vials completely indiscriminately with no real tracking and no regard as to how it might impact the lives of the donor offspring, the donor families, or the donor. It is a complete violation of trust and a blatant lie. When I found the DSR I thought I'd post my info and that would be it for now. I had no idea I'd be opening a Pandora's Box in terms of finding out how Fairfax really operates. It made me sick the other day to look at Fairfax current donors list and realize that all these guys (like I was) have no idea that they are with an organization that is not to be trusted.</p>	
3/11	Email to Wendy Kramer
<p>I'm having a very disturbing experience with Fairfax Cryobank. I contact them every few years to check for medical updates. My son is almost 13, and there are 2 other siblings found on DSR. Recently, the donor disappeared from the website. Customer Service told me that wasn't possible. They also told me that there was no record of my purchasing sperm, even though in 2008 they took my \$300- for a search to update medical info. Therefore, they wouldn't give me any info about him, because there was no connection between my child and the donor... I emailed the CEO, and he had the genetic counselor contact me, who told me basically the same thing.</p>	
3/11	Email to Wendy Kramer
<p>Also, we have about 125 babies in our group. We know of others that are not in the group so likely that number is much higher. I conversed with a woman, not in our group, who has 4 kids by him. A single and then a set of triplets. Other women in our group know of other people with kids by him too.</p>	
2/26/11	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14041
<p>I spent \$700.00 a month for 1 yr. for 2 vials a month through Fairfax Cryo. Anyway, I needed IVF to finally get pregnant. (Unexplained Infertility diagnosis).</p>	
2/23/11	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14024

This is from a mom in the largest donor offspring group that we are aware of on the DSR. Currently, there are more than 125 children reported. Many of the moms have removed their DSR postings as they became afraid of media and losing their privacy.

"I can tell you that the guy from Fairfax is possibly ill informed but more likely lying to you. I used FF donor ####. There are over 100 babies that I am aware of and more coming. Fairfax is now allowing sale on the secondary market and we just found out about a doctor buying directly from them and using the sperm for IUI.

I wouldn't believe what they tell you because a number of moms from my group called them to complain over and over and they basically said, "too bad". It wasn't until they threatened to go to the press that Fairfax claimed they pulled him. He is not available on their site but we now know his sperm is still being sold. {Note from Wendy: a mother who bought the sperm from the "secondary market" that Fairfax sells to is pregnant and reports that she was refused the donor profile from Fairfax.}

I think Fairfax is a huge company. They do what they do to make money and are not particularly concerned about the individuals involved. They have a nice website and attract lots of buyers but after you find out the real deal."

2/2/11 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13931>

When I spoke to Fairfax's Dr. Pool at the ASRM meeting in October he was shocked to know that Fairfax had large numbers of half sibling groups. He was shocked to hear that Fairfax had the largest groups on the DSR. He said that he could have known this if he had access to the DSR. When I informed him that since the DSR began anyone could browse the website and look at all the Fairfax listings and groups he was again, shocked. He didn't seem to be aware of any of the mothers of the large groups calling in to inquire as to why their sibling groups were so large.

2/2/11 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13930>

I am sure Wendy would have more insight into the different bank's policies but I had used both Fairfax and CLI and while they did have limits, they are ridiculous and you have to read your clinics policy closely. Theirs were 25 offspring per population of 600,000. Then the donor becomes geographically restricted. I am in the Phoenix area. The population of PHX is 1.5 million, not including surrounding cities. This means the bank would allow up to 50+ offspring in the Phoenix area and more in surrounding cities just 15-20 miles away. And as someone mentioned, these restrictions and inadequate as they are, are only as good as parents reporting births back to the banks.

2/1/11 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13920>

Wendy has asked me to post this information about being told that records would be destroyed. Mary Palmer, a nurse who "ran" the insemination program at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, told me this in March '88 during an intake appt. I believe when she told me this RWJ was using Fairfax exclusively.

Many of us who conceived in the 80s have tried for years to find out something about our donors. My son was conceived by frozen sperm from Fairfax Cryogenic Bank in April, 1988; I was given a one line printout which described our donor. At that time, the cryobank indicated that all records would be burned 6 mos. after the child's birth. I was given a donor number, but thinking it irrelevant, I guess I lost it. My son has always known about his DI conception; other DI moms I know who conceived as little as 4 yrs. after me were told about 1000% more about their donors than I was. We (conceived 20 yrs. or more ago) don't know enough to make contact.

3/11 | Email to Wendy Kramer

Dear Wendy, Thank you for your assistance. Can you guide me as to how I'd best get my donor number from Fairfax Cryobank. I contacted them several times over the past year (once by phone and once with email) but

they didn't respond.

1/31/11 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13916>

...a message to donor families about one facet of my experience as a donor. The basic point I would want to communicate to them is to never just assume that because someone donated 'anonymously' a long time ago, that they definitely don't want to be 'found' or be a helpful part of the child's life...

...When I signed up to be a donor, Fairfax was starting a known ID donor program. I initially started in this program, because I wanted to be available to any future offspring. However a month into the program, I changed to an anonymous status because of the way their known ID donor program was structured. The way it worked was that at age 18, the donor families would receive a lot of my personal information. To me, that didn't make sense at all. It was too much to agree to... that they can have all of my information in the future and that I could never change my decision to allow this...I didn't know who I'd be in 20 years or what my future family might think so how could I volunteer all my personal information right away? Why did it have to be all or nothing right then? In contrast, it SHOULD have been structured more like the DSR and I would have been much more inclined to stay in the known donor program.

The entire way the industry functions is appalling the more I learn about how it actually works. It is a bit shocking to learn how driven it is by money and how little regard they have for the people (donor offspring, parents, and donors) involved. These companies have created a culture where this is okay and some people actually believe it! In reality these companies' interests are trivial and absurd compared to the interests of the actual people whose lives are impacted.

I do not regret being a donor, but at the moment I'm not in love with the idea that I freely involved myself with an industry that doesn't understand what is sacred. I feel that in most ways being a donor was a beautiful thing and the positives outweigh the negatives. Still, the not being able to know what you might want to know (about your own flesh and blood) can be a frustrating thing and I don't believe it should be this way for anyone.

11/5/10 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13728>

I am thinking of trying for two, but there are no more vials of my donor. I used ID release, and I have a fear that one child might have a good relationship with the donor and the other may not. Also, Fairfax charges \$5000 to track down a donor, and to take donation again.

10/31/10 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13704>

The director of Fairfax was adamant that donors did not have the right to know their own donor numbers, even in cases where there was medical information that the donors wished to share. And the director of Idant still believes that anonymity is best. (Our donor research showed that 84% of donors have never been contacted for medical updates, yet 23% say that they or close family relatives have medical or genetic issues that would be important for recipient families to know about.)

9/11/10 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13622>

My child is 21 months old and we used a donor from Fairfax...He participated in the ID donor doctorate program so that when the child is 18 years she can contact Fairfax and let him know she is interested in making contact...After she was born I reported the birth (I hear that a lot of people don't reports births but I HOPE that that changes over time)...I had to sign the official paper that again gave permission for my child to make contact providing her birth info and SSN which I did...I hope that they DO make a concerted effort to contact donors who participate in this program and not just a one time letter...I hope that donors who participated in the ID program do update their information...As for the DSR...I have not personally registered but plan to do so...I have browsed around but no one has posted info with the donor I used (I know he was a fairly new donor and that at least one birth was reported before mine)..maybe I just need to post so someone else can see we are looking...as for Fairfax not giving donors their number...well I disagree...they should be given their

number...as someone else posted, to ensure what info is posted about them is true...And as far as I can see on the DSR, what information one posts is as elaborate or private as the poster want to be so as for donors reaching out to potential matches, well they could just ignore the contact attempt or politely decline...I personally would have no problem if the donor wanted to make contact before my child's 18th birthday...I can understand why other would not, that's why they could ignore the request/post email and or just politely decline, permanently or at that point in time...The thing is, that years and years ago, there was not the option of donor IDs...wasn't an issue...So we have tons of donor sperm people who have NO recourse to contact their biological father for any reason... I think that that is very sad and roadblocks them from perhaps peace and closure...I think we should put pressure on Fairfax to provide all donors, past, present and future with their donor numbers if for no other reason than to ensure that what info is being provided about them is true!

9/8/10 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13592>

I have the lifetime photos for my ID release donor thru CLI (sister company to Fairfax). The document I had to sign before getting the pictures does state that I cannot share them or post them publicly. I have a yahoo group for families that have used my donor and others have posted the lifetime photos there. I personally did not want to post them because I didn't want to do anything that might jeopardize my kids being able to get his ID info when they are 18. While it might not be likely that the bank would find out if I posted them to DSR or a private yahoo group, I wasn't going to take the chance. I do not recall Fairfax or CLI having the same policy with the childhood photos, just the lifetime photos.

9/8/10 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13589>

I called Fairfax when I was doing my research and they were so closed and limited with the information they would provide, I just got a bad sense about them and didn't trust them to use for buying sperm. I think if you are buying open identity you are ok b/c they have to take proper safeguards (i.e., be truthful) because they know a connection may be made at a later point. But, really, who is making sure they stay within their geographical limits? How is it even possible to verify that the donor information is true (they have an incentive to find "doctorates" where there aren't, it makes them more money!)? I have a bad taste in my mouth about that bank because of how they reacted to my questions on the phone, like God forbid they give out such private information - meanwhile, the bank I went with was willing to answer all of the same questions and give answers! The only way to force these banks to stand up to moral obligations, without any regulation, is to boycott those banks that don't have safeguards in place and don't work with both donors and donor conceived.

9/8/10 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13588>

This is absolutely ridiculous.... Letting a donor know their # in no way compromises privacy, as finding registered offspring on sites like the DSR means that is it a mutually wanted thing... wow... can we somehow get that response to the press and call them out? As someone who has been lucky to have a half-sibling connection through the DSR and a donor connection through the fertility clinic themselves, this is infuriating to me that a clinic's lack of respect and ethics could keep others from having my same fortune and closure.

Our clinic gave our donor his number when he came into request it and allowed him to give them his contact information (in good faith that they wouldn't directly share it with us) should his offspring ever inquire. They facilitated contact between us in a way that respected both party's wishes for certain things to remain anonymous, and 100% supported us making contact, even asking for updates and status and offering names of counselors if we felt the need to talk with someone about the emotional aspects of connecting with each other.

I cannot believe that a clinic such as Fairfax that is responsible for so many donor inseminations could be so backwards... who are they to say that the consequences are "unwelcome?" Shouldn't that be in the hands of the donor and donor offspring to decide? If both want contact, Fairfax is impeding the sharing of medical and genealogical history as well as negating the mutually valuable relationship that could develop based on donor/offspring situation and desires...

They wouldn't be handing either party personal information such as names/birthdates/phone numbers/etc., they'd be giving them a tool (the Donor #) that allows contact to be established while still maintaining privacy,

if desired... If they aren't willing to give this information to donors and offspring, why are there donor numbers at all? Obviously it doesn't matter to them once the insemination has happened and they've been paid. Why keep track? Maybe they don't and that's the issue...

This is inexcusable behavior by an organization that should know better. If there is anything I can do to raise a red flag and help change this policy, please let me know.

9/8/10 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13586>

Fairfax Cryobank pointed me to this section of their policy to explain why they do not allow donors to know their own donor numbers:

Donor Numbers

We stand by our policy of not releasing specific donor numbers to the donors themselves. We believe that if we were to allow donors to have their donor numbers, we would in essence be facilitating their ability to make contact with recipient families and their offspring. Providing donors their numbers would clearly undermine our privacy policy and could possibly cause families and donors, unaware of the outcomes of sharing identifying information publicly, permanent and unwelcome consequences.

Again, they are clearly prohibiting mutual consent contact amongst families who desire to be in contact with each other. They are clearly prohibiting the sharing and updating of important medical and genetic information.

9/1/10 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13579>

I was a sperm donor at Fairfax Cryobank (the Genetics and IVF Institute) in Fairfax, Virginia, for nearly two years. I've made contact with them a number of times over the years (last time in 2000) asking them to make my personal contact information available to anyone who was interested in learning that I was their donor. They told me they have a strict privacy policy and that even if I waived my rights to privacy, they were still keeping all files private.

I've made any number of inquiries requesting that my "private" file be opened, but they have refused and have been unwilling to even provide me with my donor number. VERY frustrating. The doctor I had previously made contact with will no longer take my calls nor respond to my written requests.

I would love to make contact with any biological offspring or parents of biological offspring who, for whatever reasons, may be searching for me or would be interested in making contact with me.

8/28/10 | Email to Wendy

Can you guide me as to how I'd best get my donor number from Fairfax Cryobank? I contacted them several times over the past year (once by phone and once with email) but they didn't respond.

7/25/10 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13440>

I had had extra vials shipped from Fairfax and although I heard there was a Fairfax waiting list of people who wanted vials, it was not information that would be released to me. (Annoying. I guess Fairfax wants to corner the market on reselling them.) So I contacted other members who'd had kids by my donor to see if they were interested.

7/25/10 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13438>

I found out a few months ago that my donor is no longer donating, and there are no more vials available. I went through Fairfax. I am on the waiting list in case any become available, but they will not tell me if there are any in storage...They say this is a 'violation.' For the life of me, I can't see why because I am not asking for

identifiable information.

5/5/10 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13206>

We used an ID donor from Fairfax in VA...After the baby was born I reported the birth and then printed the ID form from their web site with my child's birth info as their final confirmation that I was giving permission for my child to contact the donor at the age of 18...did not have any issue with the form...was very basic.

4/19/10 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13160>

There is a new comment on the post "Fairfax Cyrobank is still tops though donors have fathered up to 36 babies."

http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/feature/fairfax-cyrobank-is-still-tops-thoug\h-donors-have-fathered-up-to-36-babies_10066291.html

Author: mom of a FFdonor child

Comment:

They DO NOT keep good records, one donor has fathered over 150 children that I can list by name, parents and date of birth!! When we contacted them, they were very surprised we knew about each other!

See all comments on this post here:

http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/feature/fairfax-cyrobank-is-still-tops-thoug\h-donors-have-fathered-up-to-36-babies_10066291.html#comments

3/13/10 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13061>

I am not sure what kind of clinic you are using but I used Fairfax and they had no problem shipping to NY.

3/9/10 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13055>

I had ID release sperm sent from Fairfax Cryobank in Virginia to the Columbia University clinic in NYC.

10/5/09 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/12175>

Over the years, I have heard many stories from donors, recipients and adult donor conceived people that just can't get their donor numbers from banks like Fairfax, CLI, Idant and NECC. Sometimes they just refuse, sometimes they say that they can't find the records, and sometimes they say that the records have been destroyed. I just do not understand how they can deliberately keep people from making mutual consent contact. It is incomprehensible to me that they deliberately keep people from sharing medical information.

10/5/09 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/12174>

I'm in the same boat w/ Fairfax; 22 yrs. ago they told we donor recipient moms, that "all records were burned when the baby was 6 mos. old". I lost my donor # along the way, as it was said to be useless. How about if those of us in this state of limbo get together and contact the media as a group? I just want the NUMBER!

4/20/09 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11840>

Sperm Banks- Most to Least Progressive

Here are current numbers for anonymous vs. open donors that the each sperm bank has in their current catalog. PRS, TSBC and Xytex being the most progressive. Fairfax, CCB and NECC unfortunately still promoting anonymous donors as the bulk of their catalog.

PRS

95 id release 88%
13 anon 12%
108 total

TSBC

49 id release 64%
27 anon 36%
76 total

Xytex

81 id release 61%
51 anon 39%
132 total

Fairfax

39 id release 21%
144 anon 79%
183 total

CCB

56 id release 20%
228 anon 80%
284 total

NECC

35 id release 20%
139 anon 80%
174 total

355 id release (37%)

602 anon (63%)

957 total available donors on 4/19/09

3/28/09 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11763>

Re: Donor Numbers

Even now, Fairfax and CLI refuse to give donors their numbers. This is extremely distressing for donors who want to make contact through the DSR as well as the families who then can not be updated and share important medical or genetic information. They have told me on the phone that they do not believe that a donor has the right to his own donor number. This is actually prohibiting mutual consent contact. Whose best interests are they thinking of?

2/25/09 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11654>

Re: From a donor re: donation/doses/vials

Hi there. I'm the donor who wrote about the compensation provided to me by Fairfax in approx. 2000-2003.

In response:

Stephanie was correct in noting that I was in the doctorate program.

Fairfaxdonor1659 may have been paid \$40/donation in 1991; Fairfax's compensation structure in 1991 is not necessarily indicative of what it was 10 years later, however.

As I wrote in my original post, a typical donation resulted in 5-10 doses. The resulting compensation would be \$150 - \$250. The example of \$730 was, as previously noted, the exception rather than the rule. Longer periods of abstinence between donations generally resulted in higher numbers of doses produced, and therefore, higher compensation.

The idea that paying \$730 for 34 vials produced was "generous" of Fairfax is, to me, farcical, given that 34 vials could be sold to customers for over \$12,000 (and in today's sperm bank market, more like \$19,000).

2/25/09	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11652
<p>I question these numbers. This is wildly out of whack with what I was paid and what others I have seen writing here have talked about. I got forty dollars for each donation that had the proper count and motility on the post-thaw test. If the donation was good going in but didn't have the right count on the post-thaw test (and was thus unusable) I got twenty dollars. This was in about 1991. I can't possibly imagine Fairfax paying this guy \$700 for a sample. Unless this guy just won the Nobel Prize in chemistry or was MVP of the Super Bowl, I doubt Fairfax was so generous. I think this is BS.</p> <p>{Note from Wendy: As I posted this for someone and they can't then respond to defend themselves, all I can say is that this donor has no reason to lie, and from my dealing with him over the past several years, I believe him to be a trust-worthy person.}</p>	

2/25/09	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11650
<p>From a donor re: donation/doses/vials</p> <p>The following numbers were effective around 2000-2003, at Fairfax Cryobank: I was paid a flat fee of \$50 for a viable donation, plus \$20 per "dose." My understanding was that one dose = one vial, but I do not know this with 100% certainty. Donors who were not in the PHD/JD/MBA/MD category were paid less (like \$10-\$15 per dose).</p> <p>One donation = multiple doses / vials. I was paid per dose, in addition to \$50 per donation. I think my highest total of doses in one donation was around 34. On average, they were about 8 per donation. For 34, I would have received: \$50 for the viable donation + \$20/dose = \$730.00 total. Of course, \$375 x 34 = \$12,750 for Fairfax. A more typical scenario, based on 8 doses in one donation, would be \$50 + (8 x \$20) = \$210 for me, and \$3,000 for Fairfax. As I understand it, a typical donor's total in one visit results in an average of 5-10 vials.</p> <p>I don't know how many doses / vials were produced during the time that I was at Fairfax, but extrapolating from the fact that I was paid over \$40,000, you could very roughly estimate a total of 1500 vials. If my assumption on price (\$375 each) is accurate, that would give Fairfax \$562,500.00. I have no idea what their costs were (ongoing testing, for example); I was told that over \$8,000 of tests were performed prior to me being approved as a donor, and I was tested further once every few months.</p> <p>My understanding is that most banks paid a flat rate per donation - regardless of quantity of vials produced from that one donation. The flat rate is around \$75-100 per donation, and I believe the flat rate structure is much more common than Fairfax's formula.</p>	

2/18/09	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11639
<p>RE: [DonorSiblingRegistry] Lifetime photos You receive a series of photos, usually 6-10, of the donor from birth to current adult pictures. CLI offers them too. They are not cheap so I had planned to only order them once I was pregnant so I would have at least those photos to share with my children. Of course once I knew for sure what donor I was going to use I gave in to coureosity and bought them early.</p> <p>-----Original Message----- From: DonorSiblingRegistry@yahoogle.com What is the "lifetime" photo option at Fairfax?</p>	

2/17/09	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11635
<p>Re: Donor Search: Fairfax Cryobank We actually requested Fairfax contact the donor to inquire about the "lifetime" photos option that is now offered and they did find the donor but he indicated he was not currently interested in providing the photos. As</p>	

he was not interested Fairfax did not charge us. Unsure if the policy is now charge the requestors credit card first but when we asked we were not charged.

2/17/09 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11633>

Re: Donor Search: Fairfax Cryobank
\$300- for a donor search, no answers, no refund.
(above is response to --- In DonorSiblingRegistry@yahoogroups.com, T wrote:
> Did you at lease receive a refund, since you did not receive the
> medical update?

2/8/09 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11594>

I conceived my son in 1997 with donor sperm from Fairfax Cryobank. Recently I contacted them for updated medical information. They charged me \$300-, and said that they would try to contact the donor. For six months, I received no update from them. Finally, after I called and emailed, someone called, and stated that they couldn't find him.
For prospective parents: Remember that a young donor has a very different understanding of family medical history than he will ten years later. Fairfax knows that, yet I question their effort in assisting me. My son deserves to know as much as possible about his medical history. Even anonymous donors should be required to update this information on a regular basis.

10/6/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11228>

Re: Message from Representative from GIVF
Update:
I would like to update the GIFV (Fairfax) Director's "corrections" to our list:
His item #2: "2. CLI is not able to confirm the statement that the same donor had previously donated at Zygen Laboratories and California Cryobank."

This is accurate. We have confirmed.

His item #10: "10. CLI has NEVER distributed California Cryobank (CCB) donors and likewise CCB has not distributed CLI donors."

We have also heard from a parent who purchased her sperm from California Cryobank, but her donor list has a CLI heading, and she now matches with other moms who actually purchased their sperm from CLI.

His Item #9: "9. CLI has NEVER had any donors listed on the Biogenetics donor catalogue."

We have a donor who is indeed on both Fairfax and Biogenetics lists. We also have a donor on both Fairfax and NECC lists.

10/1/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11216>

The Director from GIVF Cryobanks (Fairfax Cryobank and Cryogenic Laboratories, Inc.) has different information than we show on our clinic list (which was compiled from former clients). It's easy to see why there is so much confusion!
I have agreed to post his information, as follows:
1. The Genetics & IVF Institute's (GIVF) main office is in Fairfax, VA. GIVF no longer has offices in Ashburn, VA and Gaithersburg, MD., where clients seeking infertility treatment were seen. GIVF is made up of Divisions that specialize in infertility, genetics, sperm sorting, cryobanking, infectious disease testing, and pre-implantation genetic testing. Certain divisions have locations in various states (TX, CA, MN, PA) and internationally (China and Mexico) however not all divisions and services are represented in those locations. Please refer to our web site for additional information regarding our products and services: www.givf.com

2. CLI is not able to confirm the statement that the same donor had previously donated at Zygen Laboratories and California Cryobank. However, if the donor number from the CLI donor in question is forwarded to CLI management they will follow up with the donor.
3. CLI has NEVER changed any donor numbers. It cannot be done. Donor numbers are written on the vials that contain the semen. Once frozen, the numbers cannot be changed without thawing the vials and then refreezing them. Such a process would render the semen unacceptable for distribution. CLI is also AATB accredited and this practice would be in direct violation of the AATB standards which require that a unique identifier be assigned to each donor.
4. CLI was acquired by GIVF from John Olson in 2002. The 2000 numbers were from donors that were recruited following the acquisition and were not from other banks. Some donors with pregnancies listed are b/c they have children of their own and have created pregnancies as their samples were used.
5. CLI, IC and Follas have NEVER used ReproTech Ltd. as a freezing facility. In fact, ReproTech Ltd. an independently owned company does not operate a freezing facility they are a storage facility only.
6. ReproTech Ltd. was located in the same building as CLI in Roseville, MN until 2007. In 2007, they moved to a new location in Minneapolis/St. Paul.
7. CLI and ReproMed Ltd. were both started by John Olson. CLI donors and ReproMed donors were shared with distribution in the US and Canada. The first ReproMed donor was donor ####. The CLI affiliation with ReproMed Ltd. was discontinued in 1999. ReproMed Ltd. is currently independently owned and operated. There are currently no shared donors between CLI and ReproMed Ltd. ReproMed and CLI have one donor (####) in common on both catalogs currently. All other donors that CLI and ReproMed had in common are sold with ReproMed.
8. CLI has and continues to distribute semen produced by some of the following banks. Supplies of these donors are limited and once they are gone, there will be no additional units available from CLI. Clients interested in future specimens on these donors will have to contact the original bank to check availability. InternationalCryogenics , Inc. (ICI), Follas Laboratories, and Park Avenue Fertility (PAF), Reproductive Resources, University of Nebraska (currently out of business), Washington Fertility Study Center (currently out of business). (NOTE: The sperm banking division of Follas Laboratories was sold to General BioTechnology LLC and is currently doing business as Genome Resources). Donors from the other banks, were/are distributed with the same donor number as the originating bank. The CLI profiles on the donors were created with information supplied by the originating banks.
9. CLI has NEVER had any donors listed on the Biogenetics donor catalogue.
10. CLI has NEVER distributed California Cryobank (CCB) donors and likewise CCB has not distributed CLI donors.
11. Fairfax Cryobank DID NOT purchase Follas Laboratories or any other bank (see above) . GIVF of which Fairfax Cryobank is a division, owns CLI. GIVF has not purchased any other cryobanks.
12. Each cryobank has its own donor numbering system. Therefore, several banks can have the same donor number on a past or current catalogue, however, they are not the same person.
13. Can Am Cryoservices, Inc. in Hamilton, ON distributes donor semen throughout Canada produced by Fairfax Cryobank and Cryogenic Laboratories, Inc. The samples are produced in the US and imported into Canada. All donors and their samples must meet strict Health Canada regulations regarding screening and infectious disease testing. Some donors are distributed both in the US and Canada at the same time. They would have the same donor number in both the US and Canada.
14. GIVF egg donor program is separate from Fairfax Cryobank sperm donor program. In addition, Fairfax Cryobank sperm donor program is separate from the CLI sperm donor program. Likewise, egg donor screening is different than sperm donor screening. All three programs are FDA registered and FDA inspected.
15. CLI NEVER had an affiliation with the University of Utah for donor sperm.

9/30/08 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11212>

Re: Message from a Fairfax Mom

In my opinion...I really think Fairfax Cryo did their best and closely followed this donor as they kept me in the loop with frequent medical updates regarding the offspring.

Back in early 2006 (2 days before my IUI) Fairfax Cryo refused to let me pick up the donor's vials because he was "under investigation" due to a mother reporting that her daughter was having seizures. 3 weeks later he was released again after the case was investigated.

After I became pregnant with this donor and during my pregnancy, I got a letter from Fairfax (sent to parents)

regarding the donor's offspring, stating that a few offspring suffered from VCR and that my child had a 10% chance of inheriting the same medical problem. Apparently you have a 40% chance of inheriting it if it's genetic on both sides. In addition to VCR, it stated that several offspring were stricken with seizures but were controlled with medication and were not reoccurring.

In the Spring of 2007, I received a call from Susan Seitz. Ironically, I was in the hospital after just giving birth to my daughter. She wanted to inform me that there was another reported case of VCR. This was not the news I wanted to hear after just giving birth to my daughter! Although I was very thankful that she informed me, it was causing me some serious greif and concern. I immediately informed my daughter's pediatrician the same day so that he was aware of these medical problems that were occurring with several of the offspring. I'm very thankful that my daughter has been very happy and healthy since birth.

In March of 2008, Susan told me that she spoke to the donor and he was very upfront about his family medical background as he spoke with high intelligence, etc. He informed Susan that he recently had a family reunion and had asked all his relatives if they had any cases of VCR or seizures and no one in is family were victims of these medical issues. I truly believe that the donor was being truthful and frank with his answers.

Now I'm not a genetic specialist, but I think that there must have been someone along the donor's family line that suffered from VCR and seizures but were not known to the donor and other family members.

After the last incident of seizures reported back in February, Fairfax made the final decision to destroy all remaining vials from this donor, which really upset me because my daughter may never have a full sibling.

What surprises me...is that I know several people who have used other Fairfax donors and the offspring have far more serious medical issues and the vials are STILL being offered to the parents! There's something wrong with this picture, don't you think?

Anyway...I just want to say that I'm very thankful for my daughter's donor, he has given me the greatest gift I could ever ask for!

9/29/08 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11204>

AFAIK CanAm, <http://www.CanAmCryo.com> (privately owned in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada) gets all its sperm from Fairfax in USA; CanAm does not recruit its own Canadian donors.

9/29/08 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11203>

Re: [DonorSiblingRegistry] Message from a Fairfax Mom

First of all, I'm so sorry to hear your daughter experienced these medical issues you described, which seem to be a commonality with several offspring.

My daughter was conceived with the same donor. I had called Susan back in February because I wanted to confirm that I could purchase some more vials from this donor and she told me there was plenty left and that I could purchase. I than called back in mid-March and spoke to her again. She informed me that the just had the medical team in and they had made a final decision to destroy all remaining vials, banning them from the parents of the offspring. She literally said to me that if I bought them yesterday she would have let me, like a slap in the face. She also wouldn't let me transfer ownership of the donor's vials that were being stored at Fairfax.

Unfortunately, it appears that a recent set of twins born in August were having the seizures as well but so far have not reoccurred and no medications were required.

While I'm disappointed that I may never get a genetic sibling for my daughter, I'm happy to hear that Fairfax is taking precautionary measures.

9/29/08 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11202>

Message from a Fairfax Mom:

My daughter's birth was normal she weighed 8 lbs. 10z was 21 inches long. Then the day that we were to leave the hospital she started having seizures. At first the nurses thought I was just some paranoid mother, but when they finally started to observe her they began seeing them. She was then transferred to another hospital were the NICU was and they ran all of the test, cat scan, brain ultrasound, spinal tap, EEG, everything was normal. She had about 20 known seizures in about 2 days. They gave her a loading dose of Phenobarbital and the seizures stopped. She became more alert and was eating so they sent her home after 5 days. Within hours of being home she started having seizures again. So she was started on Phenobarbital twice a day, and they

ordered another EEG which did come back abnormal this time. Within about 2 days on the med the seizures stopped. She stayed on the medication for 6 months. She has never had another seizure. And her EEG went back to normal. At her last follow up about a year ago with the neurologist I asked him why. He said from what he could tell was that she had Benign Familial Seizure disorder, which is genetic. I was so confused because I knew that no one on my side of the family had ever had this issue and the donor had not had any issues listed. So a couple months went by and then I got a call from Suzanne at Fairfax and she informed me of the Vesicoureteral Reflux and recommended that I take her in to her pediatrician and discuss it with him. So I went ahead and told her about the seizures, and to my amazement she said that there had been other babies from this donor born with the same thing. That I have to say was a relief just know. So I did take her into her ped. and because he is very careful he decided to go ahead and do a test to see if she had the Vesicoureteral Reflux. Which she did stage two. The reason it seemed that she did not have any issues was because she had chronic ear infections (which come from my side) and she was on an antibiotic constantly so that kept her from getting the UTI's. So now we see an urologist every few months and have to be very careful so that she does not get a UTI and when she does get one we need to get it treated quickly so that the infection does not go into her kidney which it has done twice and both times she had to stay in the hospital for a few days for treatment. Hopefully she will outgrow this by the time she is 6 or 7 if not they will decided to do a surgery to fix the problem. Even through all of this she has been wonderful and wouldn't trade her for nothing. Yes there have many other children from this donor that have had the seizures and the Vesicoureteral Reflux. I know that just recently there were two sets of twins born that had the seizures and one of the twins also had an issue with their kidneys as well. The sperm is not on the market, but it is still being allowed to be used by women who have used this donor. As far as genetic testing I have never really got a straight answer from Fairfax. There are currently 13 offspring registered on DSR including my daughter for our donor and with her seven have had the seizures, the Vesicoureteral Reflux I am not sure where we are at on that one.

9/26/08 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11180>

Re: [DonorSiblingRegistry] Does Fairfax Allow Letters to Donors?

In a message dated 26-Sep-2008 7:42:06 PM Eastern Daylight Time:

- > I just heard that another bank allows letters/photos of DI kids to be
- > sent to the bank, who passes them on to the donor, if the donor wants.
- > Does anyone know if Fairfax does this? (They're already closed for
- > the day or I'd call them and ask.)
- >

I would guess NOT... because this leans towards openness and they are for closed-tight-ness.

8/8/08 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10965>

Two more pieces of information from former donors:

"I recall Evan Follas, the owner of Follas Labs, telling me sometime between 1987-89 that he sent sperm to Alaska."

"Fairfax Cyrobank also exports to Fertility East in Sydney NSW Australia."

9/8/08 | Email to Wendy Kramer

I'm so sorry to hear about this... and can relate in a way. Our son was born missing part of his left arm, which would have been just one of those unexpected "birth issues" had we not received a letter from Fairfax Cryobank just 3 days later telling us of a baby from the same donor who was severely deformed. When I called the FCB and got one of the staff in the Genetics department, I was told they knew of this information for a while, but that since the parents of this child didn't allow them to examine their child, they didn't want to alarm other clients. This in itself was very alarming to us. We felt we had been denied the ability to choose what we wanted to do had we been given this information.

Once FCB heard from us, they simply pulled the donor out of the system and did not notify any other clients of our son's upper arm deficiency. I was told again, they didn't want to alarm any other clients. We waited 3 months to see a geneticist, and it was the longest 3 months of our lives. The geneticist concluded that it was simply a vascular anomaly that sometimes happens. We had several vials of this donor left and was assured we could use them if we chose, but they would not release them to us unless we signed a very lengthy legal

document that released them of any future lawsuits. They did not offer to refund our money either (\$7,000), so I guess you just take your chances with any of these cryobanks because they are not regulated. Again, I am so sorry for your experience. I just wish someone had told us all "buyer beware." In the end, we are blessed to have an otherwise healthy boy but my heart goes out to those who were not as fortunate.

8/4/08 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10956>

This part (from prior post) was changed because Genome Resources is now selling Follas' sperm on their website, along with CLI:

WAS:

- > Fairfax bought out a bunch of smaller clinics and sperm banks in 2002. One was Follas,
- > which no longer has a working sperm donor website (Pathology Associates purchased
- > Follas Labs and no longer sells sperm), and the F numbers are listed under CLI (which
- > Fairfax bought out but they are keeping both separate facilities and they have separate
- > donors for each list, it seems).

NOW:

Follas merged with Pathology Associates (abbreviated PA) in 2006. Follas' old website is now defunct. Their new website (<http://www.palabs.com>) no longer sells semen; they only store it for cancer patients. Genome Resources has the former Follas donors listed on their donor list that is on their website, (<http://www.genomeresources.com>). Genome Resources is a subsidiary of General BioTechnology LLC (GBT). GBT was founded in 1997 by former Indiana University School of Medicine researchers, but they started selling semen in 2006 (archives go back that far). Follas and Genome donor numbers start with an F and have four numbers behind the F. Some of the Genome numbers are from the former Follas donor lists, others are new. Some of these same donor numbers have also been sold through CLI out of MN.

8/4/08 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10954>

A member recently wrote to ask about Fairfax Cryobank and which other clinics they have bought up or sold sperm for. Here is the information that we've collected about who shares/sells/buys sperm:

- Victoria Fertility Center in Canada sells donors from Fairfax. Clients do not know where sperm originated from.
- The Genetics & IVF Institute has main offices and laboratories are located in Fairfax, Virginia, with additional offices in Ashburn, Virginia and Gaithersburg, Maryland. Genetics & IVF also owns medical or laboratory facilities in diverse locations including Texas, Minnesota, California, and China.
- Fairfax and CLI interchange but keep the same numbers. Each link to the other on their websites. Donors with the same numbers at both Fairfax and CLI are often NOT the same donor, they just used the same donor number.
- CanAm and Fairfax interchange and use same numbers. In 2001 there was an exclusive agreement signed between the two to sell sperm. One of these listed is also listed under Biogenetics and changes numbers.
- Fairfax lists offices donated as Austin, TX, Edison, NJ, Fairfax, VA, and Roseville, MN (CLI).
- In March of 2002, CLI was bought out by Genetics & IVF Institute Family of Cryobanks, the owners of Fairfax Cryobank, but it still has its own facility.

7/30/08 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10933>

How can Fairfax continue to publicly insist that random meetings between half siblings is highly unlikely? I just heard of another:

".....most recent match featured another random, crazy meeting... moms on a cruise, took their 2y.o. to the play room, where they met another mom and her son. They went to lunch together, where it was established that they both used Fairfax... asked what drew them to their donor... same info... both used the same donor..."

7/30/08 | Email to Wendy Kramer

At the time my daughter was born in 2000, Fairfax did not ask my doctor to report a live birth. I called and reported it on my own when I was looking to see if he could be reactivated. Had I not called, they would never

have known about my daughter. We have three known offspring via the DSR, and the donor also made contact. I don't think it is accurate to say that they are keeping track.

7/26/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10906>

When obtaining photos years after the donor has retired, both the donor and recipient have to sign the consents that promise that neither party will look for the other. In my opinion, this just puts fear into donors who might otherwise be very open to mutual consent contact. It sounds like Fairfax might now acknowledge the importance of siblings to connect (but they will not facilitate any mutual consent contact and ignore all requests), but what about the donors (who might not even know their donor number) and the offspring who want to connect? If it is MUTUAL between donor and recipient or offspring that they want to connect, there should be NO problem whatsoever. It should be UP TO THE DONOR TO DECIDE IF HE WANTS CONTACT OR NOT, NOT FAIRFAX OR CLI. I have seen it mentioned where other sperm banks let the donors come back later and change their status from unknown to known. Is this just about money? (Known donors' semen costs a lot more, and they can't go back to all those who already have children from that donor to collect more money if the sperm is already bought and used.) I feel that they are not looking out for their customers, the innocent kids that are born, or the donors. They are looking out for their pocketbooks. I have NO PROBLEM if my donor wants to stay anonymous, but let HIM make that choice, don't force it upon him. People DO change their minds. MUTUAL CONSENT SHOULD BE ALLOWED IF BOTH PARTIES AGREE. I don't care if it was before 2005 or not. PEOPLE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT HAS TO DO WITH CHILDREN AND BIOLOGICAL FATHERS.

7/25/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10903>

The recent discussion on this group has me thinking that the only way Fairfax or CLI will update the health history of a retired donor (one no longer donating so he can't update his health info) is if someone who has a child with him pays Fairfax the non-refundable \$300 to find the donor to get that information (at the same time Fairfax will ask the donor if he will provide more, like photos or updated profile, for Fairfax to sell to parents--there was a post a sometime last year that told the exorbitant prices of items that might be obtained from a retired donor). \$300 plus more money to purchase the additional information that might come out of finding him. And, when they get this updated information, they don't contact the others who have a child with this donor to offer them the supposedly "free" updated health profile, they probably wait till someone asks them about new information. Then they offer to sell them everything. How are people supposed to know it is even out there to ask for if Fairfax doesn't let them know? I think that if the sperm banks do happen to get updated health histories, they should make an effort to find the parents to see if they are interested in updating the medical history. I don't see that happening without the extra money involved, yet the health histories are supposedly "free."

7/25/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10900>

Re: From Fairfax and CLI Websites

I called Fairfax last week to find out why my son's donor, who I know has more than 25-30 family units, still had inventory for sale. I was told that this limit was implemented only about a month ago and it is not retroactive. It will only apply to new donors.

7/25/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10897>

This discussion is reminding me a story that makes me distrust anything Fairfax says.... When we were considering donors, I was very attached to a particular Fairfax donor. My partner was on board with him too, but the one thing that was holding her back was that he was not ID release. We called up Fairfax and talked to them about this because at the time on their website, they said it was coming that ID release donors would soon be an option there (this was early 2003). We discussed our dilemma and someone there told us that they were asking all the current donors if they would be willing to be known when it becomes available. We were told that our donor had said YES. And were given the impression that once the ID release was available, his status would change to that. We were satisfied with that (naive we were), and chose that

donor. We now have a beautiful 4 1/2 year old daughter and are trying for #2 using that donor. Well, when Fairfax started offering ID release, they specifically said it would not apply to any donors who were previously in the program, (pre 2005) and would only be an available option to new donors. They are pretty inflexible about it. As I have tried to tell them our story and of course we do not know who we talked to or when. We were pretty trusting of the 'system' back then and have since learned a lesson or two. Knowing what I know now, we would have used a different bank. But we want our children to be biologically connected, so we are sticking with this Fairfax donor. I do feel better and have faith in the belief that the world now, and when my daughter is older, is changing so quickly and there are so many more options (via technology/internet/DSR etc) available for finding siblings and possibly donor when my daughter is ready to do that.

7/25/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10896>

I have a child from a Fairfax Donor. I've called Fairfax Cryobank several times (as recently as this week), I tell them that I am the mother of a child from Donor #### and ask: 1.) Have there been any updates to donor #### profile? and 2.) When was the last time his profile was updated? Usually when I call I get a pretty quick "no there have been no updates." I'm not sure how they can tell me this by simply typing in his donor number. They don't know who I am and they don't know at what point I received his profile. When I called this week the woman from Fairfax told me that the donor is inactive and we no longer have his file. I told the woman that I understand that he is inactive but I don't understand how Fairfax no longer has his file! I asked if there was anyone else that would be able to check his file for updates. She said there was not. I was taken aback by her answers so I pressed, "what if the donor becomes aware of a health condition that may be significant to his offspring, a record of this is not kept?" Her reply was, if "your child has a problem I can connect you with our geneticist.

7/25/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10894>

(Response to message 10893 listed below):
"I think that this is kind of a straw man that people are building up to attack."
Again, nope. I am sharing my experiences of having communicated with thousands of donors, recipients and donor conceived people looking for answers. Your experience is that of one donor, I have communicated with hundreds of donors. Telling people what I have heard from families is not attacking, it is telling a truth that I would certainly want to know before choosing or having to deal with that particular sperm bank. We can go back to the days before the DSR, before families had a chance to hear other's experiences, but I don't think that served any of us. Bottom line is, although you might have had a pleasant conversation with the geneticist, there is no way for that geneticist to share any important medical information with your recipients. You may have updated him, but how that will help your recipients and donor children is extremely questionable. Again no one is "attacking" just exposing some of what actually happens...

7/25/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10893>

(Response to message 10888 listed below):
I have talked to donors who have tried reporting medical issues, and can not get the sperm banks to return their calls.
I can only speak from my own experience. I called up Fairfax and asked them if they had any idea how many offspring I might be responsible for. They said that they weren't able to disclose that. I took that to mean wouldn't as that was not their policy. I didn't want to know who the people were I was just kind of curious of the number they were aware of. I probably chatted for fifteen or twenty minutes with the guy who is the geneticist there. While I was on the line he asked me about any changes in my medical situation and I updated him on a few things. I also updated him on the cause of death of my grandmother and my mother, and on medical issues that they had had as well as medical issues with my father who was still alive at the time. I also gave him an e-mail address where he would always be able to get me and told them to feel free to contact me if anyone called up who had questions. Far from discouraging this information on my part, he seemed interested in having it.
I understand why they feel they need to stick to the contract that everyone signed. If they deviate from it they are going to open themselves up to possible litigation. If you have company policies and you fail to follow them

strictly, it is very hard to defend yourself in court. And before someone says that no one would ever sue, look in the news today about the lesbian couple in Australia who sued their fertility doctor for malpractice because they had healthy twin daughters when they only wanted one child. Fortunately the court eventually tossed the suit.

I never had my donor number when I came to the DSR and I didn't have any trouble finding my profile listed here. Of course, there was already someone looking for me who had posted a description that I recognized as matching the information that I had given Fairfax. I think that this is kind of a straw man that people are building up to attack. It is a little unfair to attack the cryobanks for merely doing what they promised all of us they would do. I'm all for the work of the DSR and I think the concept of coming up with some way for people to share information is very good. Just the same, I recognize why there are impediments to the cryobanks getting on board.

7/25/08 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10888>

In response to message 10887, below:

"I don't think that Fairfax is keeping donors from providing updated medical information to families." They most certainly are. By refusing to give donors the information they would need to contact families. By refusing to allow mutual consent contact between families. I have talked to donors who have tried reporting medical issues, and cannot get the sperm banks to return their calls. The banks do not have accurate accounting of all kids born to any donor. They could not then possibly call all families to update important medical information. Many donors "signed up for" anonymity because they were not given a choice. Same with recipients. None of us were educated as to the possible curiosities and needs of the children. "Changing the deal midstream"? What about acknowledging all that we donor families have learned over the past 5 years or so? What about adjusting their rules and regulations to be more in tuned with the current research and the voices of the donor families that are now becoming part of a public conversation?

7/25/08 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10887>

I don't think that Fairfax is keeping donors from providing updated medical information to families. A couple of years ago when I first became aware of the DSR I called up and talked to Fairfax. While I was on the line, I gave them updated medical information on myself and on my parents and one grandparent. It had been fifteen years since I donated and there had been a few things that changed. I'm sure that if a family was to call them up that they would share that information with them. I think they just want the information going through them.

Just because some parents and some donors have decided that they don't care about anonymity and confidentiality, doesn't mean that Fairfax is released from their responsibility to try and safeguard the privacy of everyone. They can't, or at least have zero incentive to, change the deal mid-stream. All parties signed up for this deal knowing that it was going to be anonymous. If Fairfax were to facilitate things changing now, there is a likelihood that they might wind up in a lawsuit. They are only doing the smart thing and protecting themselves.

I would encourage donors to update their information with the cryobank every three to five years as a routine and sooner if something significant happens. I would encourage the families to check in with the cryobank every few years to see if there is new information.

7/25/08 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10884>

RE: From Fairfax and CLI Websites

- > This information was taken from both the CLI and Fairfax websites.
- > ..when an anonymous donor changes his mind about connecting with families, he is not allowed
- > to know his donor number. Fairfax and CLI will not release donor numbers to their former
- > donors. So if a donor wanted to share important medical information (or just connect) with their
- > offspring listed on the DSR, the bank would prohibit this from happening. "Protecting families"?
- > I think not. Protecting themselves...I think so.

What possible justification can there be for this?! Surely the donor should have the right to decide FOR HIMSELF whether or not he wishes to:

- * remain anonymous or change his mind at a later date to become ID release
- * know his OWN donor number
- * share important medical information
- * use the DSR (or any other facility) to connect with offspring &/or parents

> From the sites:

- > Today, we ask all new donors if they want to be known. If they agree, they become an ID
- > Consent donor. If they decline, they will remain anonymous. All donors who began donating
- > prior to 2005 signed an agreement with us in which we agreed to keep their identifying
- > information private. Many families were created with the understanding that their specific donor > would be anonymous forever, and they very much want this information to stay private.

Why should it matter to these families whether or not the donor later decides to make some/all of his info available? No one is forcing families to make contact with the donor, or to have THEIR info released to the donor.

- > We have very specific understandings with donors and families that we will protect the
- > information of not only the donor's identity but also the identity of the families who used that
- > sperm donor. Our policy is that once a donor is designated as an anonymous donor or an ID
- > Consent donor, his status cannot be changed, e.g. from an anonymous donor to an ID Consent
- > donor, or vice versa. Therefore, for our anonymous donors, we are not mediating contact
- > between families and their donors.

IMHO, there is absolutely NO justification for this rationale, other than the desire on the part of the sperm banks to retain absolute control for the sake of their own VESTED (i.e. \$ & power) interests. This is a patronizing, patriarchal & repugnant approach to dealing with the – perfectly understandable -- emotional needs & desires of human beings:

- * of offspring to know more about themselves, where they came from, who they are related to, what medical issues might lie ahead for them & for the children they (will likely) have
- * of donors to change their minds about info-sharing (either identifying or non-identifying) as they mature & (likely) have kids of their own, to know something about the children they helped to create, to pass on important medical information that arises after the date of donation, as they & their parents age & medical issues arise.

- > ...half siblings who are interested are able to connect with each other via various sites third
- > parties set up for this purpose on the web. Although the donor may be unknown, half siblings
- > often find shared traits that they determine are likely from their biological fathers. This discovery
- > of sibling relationships, along with the extensive information already available on the donor,
- > may help some children as they seek to learn more about their genetic heritage.

So these sperm banks even admit that:

- * 1/2 sibs are seeking each other out via '3rd party websites;
- * it's ok & even important for offspring to have contact with 1/2 sibs because this 'may help help some children as they seek to learn more about their genetic heritage'

BUT it's not ok for these same sperm banks to allow those donors who change their OWN minds later on & want the ability to CHOOSE to be known to be given their OWN donor number by the banks in order to facilitate this????!!

- > It is highly unlikely you would ever meet another one of your half siblings randomly, (i.e.,
- > someone who was conceived with the exact same donor). It is rare for one of our donors to
- > have more than 20 reported offspring."

How on earth can they LIE so boldly like this?!!!

I want to start off by saying that I TOTALLY agree with you that there should be strict, well-defined limits that all cryobanks must use to limit the number of children per donor.

This is just some information from what I have read: I could be wrong, but I don't think they mean that a region is defined as 800,000 people. I think they define a region in geographic terms (New England, Midwest, etc). As you quoted, they "...limit the number of donor units sent to the same geographic area...." If this is true, they could provide much more sperm to, for instance, the region that includes New York, than one that includes Wyoming. It's difficult to say until someone provides a definition of "region".

I do believe it is purposefully kept vague to protect the cryobanks' interests.

Here, from Fairfax's website, is their description of how they limit donors:

"Fairfax Cryobank limits the total number of births for any donor based on the application of several criteria. Specifically, a donor's sales will cease when either of the following criteria is reached: Maximum of 25-30 family units (children from the same donor living in one home) reported within the U.S.; OR Total number of units sold reaches our designated limit (actual numbers are not disclosed). Family units who have children by the same donor will not be sold additional donor units if the maximum number of units has been reached. In addition, we also monitor the reported location of births and limit the geographic distribution of a donor consistent with the guideline of the American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM). In order to help us monitor the number of births associated with any donor, it is important that everyone be diligent in reporting births to us."

One other important piece. In your post, you wrote "We are up to 50 KNOWN children from our donor...."

That could easily be within their limits, especially if the families average more than one child apiece.

Also, I wonder if everyone has reported their birth to Fairfax. That is a critical part of their calculations as well. It may very well be that everyone has, I don't know.....

It is, for sure, a poorly designed and poorly regulated mess...

7/25/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10881>

When I was a donor (1991-2), Fairfax limited a donor to producing fifteen hundred vials. Since they might be able to get ten to fourteen vials out of a single donation, most donors who donated a couple of times a week would run up against that limit after a couple of years. If you only donated once a week it would obviously take longer. They were also careful about management of inventory. If early sales (after the quarantine period) were slow, they might ask the donor to take a break from donating until they moved some of the backlog.

Given the total limit of fifteen hundred vials, it is obviously unlikely that a donor could produce 9,500 children. At the time I was told that one out of every eight procedures resulted in a pregnancy but that there were a lot of miscarriages and that only one in thirty resulted in a live birth. I had kind of done the math and assumed that it was possible that I might create forty or fifty offspring. The reason that I was given why the success rate was so low was that many of the couples had fertility issues with both the man and the woman. Many couples had tried for a long time to get pregnant on their own and many of the women were past their peak reproductive years.

I'm sure that the technology has improved over the last fifteen to twenty years and the success rate is probably higher. This may be especially true now that there is a more diverse group of people making use of the sperm banks. In the old days, people were seeking the help of a fertility doctor only after having tried on their own. Now with many single mothers and same-sex couples, it is possible that there aren't as many fertility issues as before.

If there are groups with fifty siblings on the DSR, I think that it is probably a conservative guess that there are an equal number who aren't. I think it is quite possible that some recent donors could eventually have in the neighborhood of one hundred to two hundred offspring. Wendy did a survey on how many attempts it took for people to get pregnant and it turned out that about 60% of those who responded had gotten pregnant in three attempts or less. Keep in mind that those 40% who do not have early success may account for a large percentage of the sperm used as they go through repeated cycles. Based on these pretty unscientific sampling numbers I would say that the theoretical maximum of offspring a donor might have is in the three hundred to four hundred range, but I strongly suspect that the actual numbers are probably closer to half that. Since nobody seems to be keeping very good records, it is sort of hard to know what the truth is.

7/25/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10878>

> In accordance with the

> guidelines set by the American Society of Reproductive Medicine
> (ASRM), we strictly limit the number of donor units sent to the same
> geographic area. But since donor sperm is shipped all over the US and
> several other countries, the donor usually sells out before he reaches
> our distribution limit. It is highly unlikely you would ever meet
> another one of your half siblings randomly, (i.e., someone who was
> conceived with the exact same donor). It is rare for one of our donors
> to have more than 20 reported offspring."

>
Fairfax told me they "limit" the number of pregnancies in the US to 25 for every 800,000 in population (a region). So, the US has a population of 304,691,185 currently... and that means there are 380 regions of 800,000 people and they allow 25 pregnancies per region so that means they strictly limit the number of pregnancies in the US to 9,500 pregnancies to a donor? Can someone please clarify if I'm missing something or if my math is wrong? How can it be "rare" to have more than 20 kids from 1 donor based on this data? We are up to 50 KNOWN children from our donor (all of which have a remarkable resemblance to one another so there's really no question about DNA). And, these are only those who CHOSE to look for us, who chose to be found. I know many others groups with over 20 also. So, i guess it all comes down to how Fairfax defines the words LIMITS and RARE.

Of course, I cherish all the relationships with have with the sibling families... and now that Ive "been here done this" I have zero regrets. But, I do think Fairfax should have limits that are stricter than they currently have. And, I would be remiss if I didn't add that I am thankful that Fairfax made it possible for me to have a wonderful family as a single mom by choice.

7/25/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10877>

This information was taken from both the CLI and Fairfax websites. It was sent to me by a member. I question a few things....4-5,000 children born each year from DI? All other estimates hover around 30,000-40,000. How in the world is anyone getting any numbers that they then present as truth?! And they think it's rare to have more than 20 siblings for any given donor? As the DSR is a small sampling of donor families, I think we've shown that to not be the case. Also, we have heard several times of women meeting up in a park, or party and discovering that their kids were half siblings. It does indeed happen. Donor siblings can connect from "various sites that third parties set up..."? If you knew how many times I have called these sperm bank directors to have them please tell their clients about the DSR. Also, when an anonymous donor changes his mind about connecting with families, he is not allowed to know his donor number. Fairfax and CLI will not release donor numbers to their former donors. So if a donor wanted to share important medical information (or just connect) with their offspring listed on the DSR, the bank would prohibit this from happening. "Protecting families"? I think not. Protecting themselves...I think so.

From the sites:

"The typical family who uses donor sperm is changing. Originally donor insemination was offered exclusively to married couples who were experiencing infertility. Today, infertile couples are still helped by donor sperm but other types of families are as well. Single women are increasingly choosing to have children on their own with the help of donor sperm. Same sex couples are, too. Where 20 years ago it was easier to keep the donor sperm story a secret, it is now much more obvious when a father is not around while a child is growing up. Children born from donor sperm are learning about the circumstances of their conception in ever increasing numbers. We estimate that now about 4,000 to 5,000 children a year are born in the US as the result of anonymous donor insemination.

Today, we ask all new donors if they want to be known. If they agree, they become an ID Consent donor. If they decline, they will remain anonymous. All donors who began donating prior to 2005 signed an agreement with us in which we agreed to keep their identifying information private. Many families were created with the understanding that their specific donor would be anonymous forever, and they very much want this information to stay private. We have very specific understandings with donors and families that we will protect the information of not only the donor's identity but also the identity of the families who used that sperm donor. Our policy is that once a donor is designated as an anonymous donor or an ID Consent donor, his status cannot be changed, e.g. from an anonymous donor to an ID Consent donor, or vice versa. Therefore, for our anonymous donors, we are not mediating contact between families and their donors.

There is a considerable amount of information we do have on our donors, both anonymous and ID consent,

that is extremely valuable in learning about the donor as a person rather than a cold statistic. Donors today have audio interviews recorded, childhood photos, some have adult photos, and all have detailed medical and personal histories. Their ethnicity, talents, interests, and even their favorite color and song are presented. Donors who are no longer donating also have information saved. (See more about donor information at this webpage about donor information.) In addition, half siblings who are interested are able to connect with each other via various sites third parties set up for this purpose on the web. Although the donor may be unknown, half siblings often find shared traits that they determine are likely from their biological fathers. This discovery of sibling relationships, along with the extensive information already available on the donor, may help some children as they seek to learn more about their genetic heritage.

Donor sperm from one donor usually results in several pregnancies over many years. Some families store units from the same donor in order to have biologically full siblings, so the age range of all the children from the same donor may be considerable. In accordance with the guidelines set by the American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), we strictly limit the number of donor units sent to the same geographic area. But since donor sperm is shipped all over the US and several other countries, the donor usually sells out before he reaches our distribution limit. It is highly unlikely you would ever meet another one of your half siblings randomly, (i.e., someone who was conceived with the exact same donor). It is rare for one of our donors to have more than 20 reported offspring."

7/20/08 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10828>

> I think that sperm banks should be telling prospective buyers when the
> first kids were born from their donor.

That will never happen because, in the case of anonymous donors, the banks are very interested in keeping anonymity and any info that would help "date" the donors age at time of donation or place of donation etc would not be welcomed. For example, our donor's info and paperwork is very odd in terms of being able to determine exactly when he graduated from college. Different sib families have different information showing when he graduated and in fact, even the donor's CD rom interview is confusing... He says he "finished school" but then in the same interview talks about "graduating next year." It's all very confusing (actually it just doesn't make sense) and I'm not convinced that the bank didn't purposely tell the donor to be very vague about timing during the interview and maybe he forgot and then suddenly remembered during the interview (obviously I'm speculating!). BTW - so far we now have half sibs ranging from not-yet-born to age 6. We also have several youngish moms in the group, so I have no doubt we could end up with a span of 10+ years between kids at some point in the future.

Mom to a child with approx. 50 half sibs SO FAR (Fairfax Cryobank)

4/14/08 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10419>

I know of one Fairfax Group, where only about 54 are actually listed on the DSR (some never posted, some have removed their postings), but I have heard from the moms that the number of children born is actually closer to 105-110.

3/14/08 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10247>

I just noticed a Fairfax donor number on the DSR with 12 kids, the oldest born in 1991, the youngest listed was born in 2007. I did not realize that sperm banks sold sperm for 17 or more years.

3/7/08 | http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/4471

Although sperm bank responsiveness pre pregnancy is important, I sure hope that no one is choosing a sperm bank before they hear about post pregnancy responsiveness. Particularly how they deal with updating of donor and family medical information, how they then share this information, how they track how many births there are for any given donor, and how they deal with donor conceived people who become curious and want to have mutual consent contact with their biological family.

Most sperm banks I know are very attentive pre pregnancy. Once they have received their money, and helped with a pregnancy, it can be a completely different story. At this point, few even tell their clients about the DSR

(only 1.5% of DSR members are sent from sperm bank recommendations).

2/26/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10170>

The agreement I had to sign (below) to receive the lifetime photos does say that the recipient and the offspring will not try to track down the donor. It is an interesting question as to whether posting on the DSR is in violation of either the donor or recipient contract. I would think that if I posted about my child because I wanted to make contact with siblings and the donor happened to see the posts and want to make contact it would be assumed that it was of mutual interest. And if the donor was the one to make contact or make himself available via a posting, who would be the one to complain? The agreement below is to protect the donor's identity but if he chooses to give that up by posting on the DSR he is giving up his own rights to remain anonymous. Who is the sperm bank to tell him he can't do that? Most of the donors I have seen that have Lifetime Photos available are ID consent anyway so they know their identity will be revealed at a future date. I actually purchased my donor thru CLI but they are owned by the same company as Fairfax so it is the same form. CLI charges \$75 for a baby + adult or \$100 for the lifetime series. Fairfax makes a ton of money on the baby photos, audio interviews and long profiles. I find it interesting that while owned by the same company, Fairfax charges for all of this stuff and CLI makes it available at no charge as a download on their website. Fairfax is more expensive for their samples as well.

PATIENT CONSENT AGREEMENT

We, the undersigned recipient (and her partner if applicable) understand and agree that we have chosen to participate in the Donor Photo Program of the Genetics & IVF Institute Cryobanks Division (hereinafter GIVF Cryobanks) for Donor # _____ (Donor). We understand and agree to the following conditions:

1. We understand that we must sign and return this consent and release form to GIVF Cryobanks before GIVF Cryobanks will ship photograph(s) of the donor. If we are requesting photographs on multiple donors, we understand we must sign and return a separate consent and release form for each donor.
2. We, on behalf of ourselves and any Offspring, hereby irrevocably and unconditionally release and discharge GIVF Cryobanks and its past, present, or future directors, employees, and affiliates, and the donor from any and all claims, actions, liabilities, charges, costs, demands, debts, obligations, and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees and legal expenses) of any nature that we or any of our Offspring, heirs or assigns now has, ever has had, or may in the future have related to the Donor Photo Program. We hereby agree that we shall, and shall cause our Offspring, heirs or assigns to refrain from bringing any legal or equitable action against GIVF Cryobanks or the GIVF Cryobanks' Affiliates for any reason in any way related to the Donor Photo Program.
3. We, on behalf of ourselves and any Offspring, agree to keep anonymous the Donor photo(s) received from GIVF and not publicize or otherwise publish the photos for any reason. We, on behalf of ourselves and any Offspring agree not to attempt to contact the Donor or attempt to discover the identity of the donor, including personal information about the Donor. We agree that we will, and will cause any Offspring to hold the photo(s) in strict confidence. We acknowledge that any attempts by us or Offspring to contact the Donor or publish the photos would cause immediate and irrevocable harm to the Donor and would be the basis for obtaining an immediate injunction.
4. I and my partner (if we are married) will be named on the birth certificate of any child born using a semen donation from the Donor. We understand that the Donor will have no legal relationship, rights or obligations to any child born using his donated semen.
5. This agreement shall be binding upon ourselves and our Offspring, assigns, heirs, executors and administrators. This represents the entire agreement between the parties concerning the subject matter; and there are no understandings, agreements, or representations other than as herein set forth. The agreement shall be binding upon the parties and their respective assignees, heirs, executors, and administrators. This agreement shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Virginia, USA.

2/26/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10167>

I wonder how registering, posting and making mutual consent contact on the DSR fits into this contract? How can they say that this contract is binding "...upon the parties and their heirs..." Not sure how children can be legally bound by this contract, if they never signed it.

DONOR PHOTO CONSENT AGREEMENT

I, (Donor), am a participating in the donor program conducted by Genetics & IVF Institute Cryobanks, and I

agree to participate in the optional Donor Photo program.

I agree to provide (circle one):

1) Profile and head-on photographs of myself as an adult. These photos may be provided by myself, but if the quality of the photos is not satisfactory to the staff of GIVF Cryobanks, then photographs will be taken of me at GIVF Cryobanks' expense.

OR

2) A Lifetime Photo Portfolio with pictures of myself at the following ages: infant (under 6 months), toddler (2-3), 1st-2nd grade (5-7), junior high (11-13), high school (15-18), college (20-24), and adult. If the quality of the adult photo is not satisfactory to the staff of GIVF Cryobanks, then photographs will be taken of me at GIVF Cryobanks' expense.

I understand that the Genetics & IVF Institute Cryobanks may provide these items to potential recipients and their healthcare providers. I understand that there exists a risk that I may be recognized in public from one of the photos I provide and I accept that risk of having my identity known. I further understand that even though my physical likeness will be made available to potential recipients and their healthcare providers through the Photo Program, contact information including name, address, and telephone number will not be revealed to potential or actual recipients. Except for the release of the photo(s), all aspects of the semen donation are anonymous. I understand that my identity will not be released except as may be required by legal or judicial process.

I agree not to attempt to discover the identity of the persons for whom I am donating. I will not be named on the birth certificate of any child born using my semen donation. I understand that I will have no legal relationship to any child born, nor will I have any legal rights or obligations to any child born through my donation. In the same way any child born will have no legal relationship with me, no rights and no obligations to me. I will not pursue any parental claim to any child that may be born from my semen donation, including seeking knowledge or information about whether a child was born. I will not attempt to contact the child or children, or any recipients. I will not seek visitation rights, nor seek to establish a parent-child relationship with any child born as a result of my donation.

This agreement shall be binding upon the parties and their respective assigns, heirs, executors and administrators. This represents the entire agreement between the parties concerning the subject matter; and there are no understanding, agreements, or representations other than as herein set forth. This agreement shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Virginia, USA.

I understand that if I have questions about the program, I may contact the cryobank staff at my donation site.

2/15/08	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10049
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Fairfax allows 25 pregnancies for every 800,000 in population, so if you do the math, they allow hundreds or potentially thousands of children to be born from one donor. Our donor donated about 2x per week for 2.5 years. They turned EACH ONE of his "deposits" into approximately 10-15 vials so he produced over 3000 vials during that time.

2/14/08	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10044
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Did you have to have any kind of vial or order # to report via Fairfax's website? Last time I looked, it required something of that sort and, of course, I don't have that info as my RE's office handled all that for me. I keep meaning to call his office to find out if they reported (I doubt it, as I didn't have to report a live birth to them) and to see if they have whatever number it is the form requires.

2/13/08	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9986
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I live 2.5 miles from the bank and I have been there many times for pick/drop off. The drop off window is the same as the pick up window, and on the same floor. It a shipping/receiving type atmosphere. There are offices in the back of the in house customer service staff, including Dr. Poole, Susan Seitz and the financial coordinator, whom I have had meetings with. In my opinion, It's quite professional & clean.

2/12/08	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9965
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...my experience at Fairfax about 2000-03, was that they tried to prevent donors from discovering their donor # as well. I happened to see some of my paperwork when I was hanging out in the lab with the techs, which is how I learned mine. (And subsequently, they put the donor info online for customers, so any donor could theoretically search for his characteristics and find his donor #.) I have heard from other people who have donated (CCB and NECC, and some tiny place in Carolina) that they too were not "allowed" to receive donor #s either. Perhaps things have changed as of late... don't know.

Also, regarding donor-mom's post on the atmosphere at Fairfax ("prison sign in," the possibility of lab techs doubling as donors, etc.) - although the surrounds were certainly far from glamorous, it was just another office building in an office park, not a dirty, sketchy place.... and although I got to know the staff there quite well, and hung out with them sometimes, I certainly wasn't carrying the tanks out to customers!

2/12/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9962>

Fairfax and CLI are owned by the same parent company. Genetics & IVF Institute.

2/12/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9961>

Is CLI Fairfax? The Fairfax website allows you to report yourself. I did this. No doctor necessary.

2/12/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9959>

I attempted to report mine online through Fairfax and it required an order number. I no longer had mine, so called. The woman who answered was very friendly and helpful (as I've always found them) and after asking me a few questions to establish my identity, she gave me the order number so I could report the birth(s). Regarding Fairfax- I picked up my own tanks, did anyone else do this? It was quite a shock to see the simple little operation they had there. I expected a nice, sterile environment, when really they had huge nitrogen tanks lining the dark hallways leading to the pick up area which looked more like the sign in area for a prison or something! The people were all quite nice, though, even the young men who brought out the tanks. One gave me mine and said, "good luck," with a huge grin. This made me wonder if he was a donor as well as a worker- it would be one stop for him.

2/10/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9905>

One possible explanation for the disparity in numbers between Xytex & Fairfax is that Xytex has more donors who have been tested for, and meet, Canada's screening regulations for sperm (which are different from, and reportedly tougher than, the USA regs).

Lack of compliance with Canadian regs means that:

- * not all USA sperm banks can ship to Canada
- * only sperm & donors which meet Cdn regs can be shipped to Cda, or used here by clinics & sperm banks.
- * samples from donors that were frozen before these regs were put in place a few yrs ago cannot be shipped or used here unless the donor can be found, re-tested & determined to pass the current screening regs.

As a result, some sperm from American ID release donors is available to USA patients but not to Canadians.

2/10/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9893>

I've been wondering the following:

Being in Canada we have only 2 choices for ID release donors. Going through Xytex or Fairfax. Can anyone shed some light as to why Xytex has so many more ID release donors available? I'm talking a HUGE difference, 42 at Xytex vs only 4 at Fairfax. Or am I not seeing Fairfax donors that are available to the US only and there are many more?

My understanding is that Xytex has 2 donation facilities where Fairfax has 7 facilities. What is Xytex doing to persuade so many more ID release donors? Are they paying them more or is this the bank that is saying they can change their mind?

I'm asking because I have an existing relationship with Fairfax and I'm switching to ID release for my next purchase.

2/10/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9894>

I mailed out more than 400 letters a few weeks ago to sperm banks, clinics, Reproductive Endocrinologists, and infertility doctors asking them if they would include a DSR information sheet in their "new client" packets. I only have ONE respondent- Xytex, who asked for 500 of the info sheets, to include in every new patient packet that they hand out or mail out. This information sheet tells people about the DSR and a child's possible curiosities in a very non-threatening and friendly manner.

What does this tell you about the infertility industry? That they just do not want to acknowledge the needs of families post pregnancy. There is an industry meeting on March 28th, in Chicago, for further discussion on the "Feasibility of a National Donor Registry". There is not one donor conceived person that has been asked to speak or participate in any manner at this event. I am the only mother of a sperm donor conceived person asked to speak. (One egg donor mother as well) I hope that some of you will be able to attend this meeting so that the industry can hear your voices. It makes you wonder whose needs they are looking to serve in "self regulating." Certainly not the donor families....

1/29/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9754>

The donor my partner and I used from Fairfax has produced 27 donor related siblings. I'm curious how one goes about finding out the location of them all without invading anyone's privacy. My intentions aren't to establish a relationship with all the donor recipients, although I'm not opposed to it, I'm just curious what the chances are of my daughter ending up in the same school as a donor sibling.

1/28/08 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/4373

Just my 2 cents, but my partner and I chose to go with a much smaller bank. We chose PRS and were very happy with them. We chose a smaller bank for many reasons; the biggest reason was that we felt a smaller bank would produce fewer offspring per donor. PRS was licensed in NY [where we live] and though all the RE's we met with and asked did have more experience dealing with the larger banks (Fairfax & CCB), their previous experiences with PRS had always been positive. I can also tell you that when a question arose regarding my daughter's health, they were not only incredibly supportive- but they were also more than willing to contact the donor [who had retired 2 years prior] and ask him a whole host of questions. [BTW, it was just a reflux/allergy issue and at the time that I contacted them it was obvious that it was in no way life-threatening and most likely it had nothing to do with the donor. So based on that, I thought it was especially nice of them to contact him.] Again, just my opinion, but I do think there's something to be said for dealing with a smaller bank. I imagine that because so many people use (example) Fairfax and CCB they would be hard pressed to provide the type of customer service that a place like PRS and TCSB does. Remember, most of us have never stepped foot into these banks- all of our dealings with them are via the phone. What I liked about PRS was that every time I called- regardless of whom I spoke with, I got the sense that they knew exactly who they were speaking with. Given all I know now, if I had to do it all over again, I would still choose PRS (actually, after being on this site, I personally feel like I kind of dodged a bullet by not using Fairfax or CCB—but that's just my opinion). You should also know that TCSB does have a 10 family limit on each donor (meaning, there's no limit on how many children they can create- but they can only create up to 10 families each). And as I see it, I don't imagine each of these ten families are having a van full of kids, so it seems to me that their number of offspring per donor would be less than most. I'm sure others can tell you how other banks restrict the use of a donor-- it's something horrifying like 25 offspring per population of 800,000 (which, when I did the math, meant that one donor could technically create something like 650 offspring in NYC alone!).

1/26/08 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/4360

We have been looking on 2 donor banks web sites recommended by my doctor: (California cryobank & Fairfax in Virginia)...

Does anyone have any experiences that they would like to share regarding either one of these?

I noticed that they list in the donor profile if there were any successful pregnancies...is there a way to find out if anyone had a pregnancy where the child had any congenital defects or Autism or mental retardation?

Is there a way to see how many offspring this donor has from the program?

Is there a limit to the number of offspring before they pull the donor and how would I contact the other people who might have used the same donor if at all possible? Do people do this or not anyway? Are the banks following regs?

Any other tips would be greatly appreciated!

[from moderator ML: You can read details of a court case against CCB here:

<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/data2/californiastatecases/b155896.doc>

They ignored important medical information given to them by a donor, THEN falsified his records when it appeared to have caused a problem, THEN lied about it in court. You have to read the details to find out just how despicable their behaviour was. If this had been a UK clinic, I'm fairly sure they would have lost their license over this.

There is an article about one of Fairfax's donors here:

<http://www.donorsiblingregistry.com/The%20Truth%20About%20Donor%201084.pdf>

There is generally no way to find out if there are any children from a given donor who have problems. These may not be related to the donor anyway.

The only way to get in touch with parents who've used the same donor is through the DSR. Some people have done this.

There aren't really any "offspring" limits at most of the banks, and some donors seem to have hundreds of genetic children.

Most of the regulation that applies to US sperm banks is either voluntary, or designed to prevent disease transmission to the mother rather than to ensure the health of any children.]

1/13/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9601>

As a pediatric nurse I can tell you that hypoplastic left heart is a serious and often fatal heart condition. It can and often is diagnosed in utero and I know they have made some advances on surgery while the mother is still pregnant. It can be fixed in a series of I think 3 surgeries but from what I know and I am not an expert or anything it often carries a poor prognosis. I don't know too much about the genetic factor of it.

1/12/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9589>

Also even if your child was apparently born healthy, what about your grandchildren? It's really disturbing.

1/12/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9587>

"I asked why I was not contacted and she said they would obviously not contact parents who had delivered healthy children."

That doesn't seem obvious to me. First, as Wendy mentioned, it would be useful to know in terms of medical history for the future. Second, it is remotely possible some of those healthy children have subtle heart defects that are not obvious just by looking but might become a problem later. These subtle defects might be detected and dealt with if the heart was examined, specifically. If the clinic/bank/whatever DIDN'T let everyone know and THEN someone got sick when it could have been avoided, the bank could be held liable for withholding the information.

"I asked if there was any chance that these children could pass it down and she said it was the type of defect that only a small percentage of children have and then as they get further away from the genetic parent who had it the chances diminish and diminish."

That last bit is simply not true. The chances of passing it to your children if you are a carrier are just the same generation to generation. Assuming this is recessive (need two bad copies for a problem), the chance of being a carrier for the kids is 50% and the chance for their kids to be carriers is 50% etc. In order to actually have the problem, you would need to have kids with another carrier (*), so it really depends on the distribution of the defective version of the gene in the population at large. Chances are the defective gene is really rare in the population at large and not much to worry about...but it's best to know.

1/12/08	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9585
<p>From the Parent: Just saw your post. One bit of info that should be corrected is that the children who are live births usually require surgery to correct the problem. I did do some research this morning on it before talking to my pediatrician. The research is listed below and unless I am not reading it correctly, it appears that the defect can be corrected with surgery and that there is no mention of a death rate. Check it out and you may want to revise that part of your post. This is a great site to refer people to who have vials left and want to use them. http://www.lpch.org/DiseaseHealthInfo/HealthLibrary/cardiac/hlhs.html</p>	

1/12/08	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9584
<p>Parent noticed that her donor is "restricted" from a message on the DSR from another family. She writes Fairfax and asks why the donor has been suspended and also asks for any medical information she should have. She hears back from them and writes me: "The Genetic Counselor contacted me today and it was a medical problem that was found in one of the children. The child had something called Hypo plastic left heart. She asked if I was using this donor or if I had children using him. Apparently this problem is genetic and children usually do not live. I am not sure if someone had a child and then the child died or if the pregnancy ended and it was DX. I asked why I was not contacted and she said they would obviously not contact parents who had delivered healthy children. They did contact anyone who might have vials left. She did also share with me that there are other children scattered across the country. I asked if there was any chance that these children could pass it down and she said it was the type of defect that only a small percentage of children have and then as they get further away from the genetic parent who had it the chances diminish and diminish." Makes me wonder how they determine when a medical illness is important enough to warrant contacting all families who have used that donor. What constitutes a "small percentage"? Doesn't the child who may carry this disorder have a right to know about it?</p>	

12/7/07	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9288
<p>I'm not sure if there is a way to alert DSR members but Fairfax Cryobank has a communication problem with its parents of ID Consent Donors. After the birth of a child using this program, parents must register the child with Fairfax using a form referenced in its Patient Consent Agreement in order for the child to be eligible to contact the donor through the sperm bank in the future. However, parents are not provided the form when the sperm is ordered. Fairfax does not respond to email requests for registration assistance or email registration attempts, and phone calls to Fairfax have misdirected parents to the pregnancy reporting form on the website. I have just learned today that the only way for parents to register their children is to call Fairfax and request the "required registration form for the Future Connections program" be mailed to them -- they have to request the form by name or they will be directed to the website to fill out the pregnancy reporting form, which is not the same thing. But the parents would not necessarily know this because nothing on the pregnancy reporting form indicates that it is not the right form for the Future Connections program. It does allow a live birth report. This is going to be a nightmare in a couple of decades when many kids find out that Fairfax ignored or misdirected parents' registrations of their children for this program. There will be litigation if they deny access on this basis.</p>	

11/18/07	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9237
<p>I find it hard to understand how Fairfax can ethically justify still distributing sperm of a donor with a risk of transmitting a hereditary disorder. They might not be liable legally if they explain the risks to the recipients but I cannot see any ethical basis upon which they can justify their action. Have Fairfax got absolutely no sense of moral obligation to the people they facilitate bringing into being? As a third party Fairfax must never risk the health of the children that they help create. It is not their prerogative even if the recipient agrees to take the risk - it is like providing cigarettes to small children because their parents say they let them smoke. > If our Medical Director determines that</p>	

- > using a donor could raise the risk of occurrence of a significant
- > medical condition or birth defect above the risk in the general
- > population, we will restrict that donor, meaning that his sperm is
- > no longer available for sale to the general public. In certain
- > circumstances, however, we will allow this donor to remain available
- > only to clients who already have a child by the same donor, allowing
- > them a biological sibling.
- > If our Medical Director determines that
- > using a donor could raise the risk of occurrence of a significant
- > medical condition or birth defect above the risk in the general
- > population, we will restrict that donor, meaning that his sperm is no
- > longer available for sale to the general public. In certain
- > circumstances, however, we will allow this donor to remain available
- > only to clients who already have a child by the same donor, allowing
- > them a biological sibling. We will ship such a donor's sperm only
- > after the client understands the risks, as best can be determined with
- > the information given us, has an opportunity to discuss these issues
- > with our medical staff, and has signed an informed consent.

11/18/07 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9236>

The response from Fairfax is more notable for what it doesn't say than for what it does say. None of the specific allegations in the article are addressed, and it looks as if the procedures described in the response simply weren't followed in the case of donor 1084.

(http://www.self.com/magazine/articles/2006/10/23/1006donor_single_page or <http://www.donorsiblingregistry.com/The%20Truth%20About%20Donor%201084.pdf>)

It's probably true that donor-conceived people as a whole are healthier than the general population, but then that is to be expected, since the donors are chosen specifically for their genes. I don't think it's realistic for sperm banks to run every possible test on every possible donor, and there can be no guarantee of children with no health issues whatsoever. However, when there are children with problems that appear to be related to the donor, it is not acceptable for these to be ignored or covered up. That seems to be what has happened in at least three cases that we know of. In one case, we know that CCB ignored medical information given by a donor, then lied about it, then falsified evidence given in court. I'm fairly sure that had this happened in the UK, the HFEA would have taken away their license. I find it hard to believe that there aren't other cases we don't know about where sperm banks have been able to cover up problems.

It just seems as if at least some sperm banks in the past were quite happy to ignore medical problems in the donor children, since they assumed that the parents would never be able to contact each other. It's the donor sibling registry that has changed that.

I agree with you that it makes sense for a new donor's samples to be released slowly, so that if there are problems that are immediately apparent, fewer families will be affected. In the article, it says that Ethan's problems were evident in April 2001, when he was 1 week old, but that in 2006, Fairfax were "still telling hopeful mothers that there are no adverse health reports linked to Donor 1084".

The director of Fairfax said in his response

(<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9228>) that "We ask physicians and clients to notify us whenever they believe a child born by donor sperm has any medical condition. In the rare cases when we receive such notice, we immediately remove that donor from sale and investigate the report." Is he saying that the article is wrong? If so, then has legal action been taken against the magazine that printed it?

11/18/07 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9233>

This post shows a basic misunderstanding of the letter from Fairfax. They don't say that they don't screen for anything other than STDs, they say that they can't screen for everything. There are a number of genetic conditions (the majority) where the genes that cause them are not completely known. There are also a number of conditions where the gene is known but occurs in such a minuscule percentage of the population that it is not cost effective to test for. Like any other decision in life, you have to balance the chance of something bad

happening versus the cost involved in eliminating that risk.

If the chance of some condition occurring is one or two out of a hundred thousand, and the cost of testing for it is to test every donor at a cost of several hundred dollars apiece, the cost of eliminating it would be quite high. Multiply this by the literally thousands of rare conditions that might effect at least one offspring and the cost of eliminating all of them would be staggering.

You have to balance the cost of eliminating risk with what people can afford to pay for the finished product. I'm sure that Detroit could manufacture a completely safe and environmentally friendly automobile if everyone were willing to pay one hundred thousand dollars for it. Most people can't. They make the best car they can for what market research tells them that people are willing and able to pay.

The sperm banks are no different. They are not telling people that there is no risk of genetic problems if you use donor sperm. They are saying that the risks are significantly less than if you do it the old fashion way. That statement is absolutely true. For all the talk on this site of defects from donor sperm, what I hear is the same relatively few cases being continually rehashed. It is obviously unfortunate when any child is born with some type of disability. But it is the same whether the sperm came from your Dad or from some donor at the cryobank.

The writer also questions how the donor sperm could be safer than sperm from natural parents. Most people only have personal knowledge of their families going back at most three generations. I know how long my grandparents lived and what they died from and that they seemed to be mostly healthy for most of their lives but I don't know the details of their medical history. Likewise, I can't tell you every medical issue that each of my cousins has. I suppose if one of them had been born with two heads or something like that I would be aware of it, but in general I don't know much more about them than I do about strangers on the street. They seem healthy and active when I see them and I haven't heard that there are problems but I really don't know. I come from a close family where I am in contact with all of my relations. In a lot of families that is not true. I have many friends that barely know their cousins and extended families. The idea that people know more about their genetic history than the cryobanks know about the donors is most likely incorrect. This also assumes that all these genetic diseases show up in every generation.

The number of cases where the grandmother had some condition and then the mother had it and now the daughter has it are not the norm. Most of these genetic conditions are the result of recessive genes and are only expressed when two people who have the rare recessive gene come together. Just because you don't know anybody on either side of the family who has the condition does not in any way mean that you are safe from it. It may be lurking and has just not had the chance to combine with a similar gene.

Even if potential parents had perfect information about each other's genetic make-up, there would still be hard decisions. If I go to a geneticist and spend a fortune to have a complete genetic profile done on each parent, and the geneticist tells me that there is a sixty out of one hundred thousand chance that one of our children might have a rare genetic disease, what do I do? Do I decide not to have children because of this relatively small risk or do I decide to proceed and hope that I am among the vast majority of lucky ones. With those numbers, I would almost certainly take the risk.

I guess the big lesson in all of this is that life is hard and there are no guarantees. You take reasonable precautions to protect you and your family but you can only do so much. I don't think it is reasonable to expect that the sperm banks are going to be perfect, I just want them to use due diligence and do the best they can. I have previously put forth the idea in this forum that one way of preventing the situation that occurred with this donor 1084 would be a slower release of sperm. I proposed that they might release perhaps twenty percent of the sperm and then wait a couple of years to see how the first crop of kids was doing before releasing the rest. With donors producing large numbers of offspring, the problem is not that there may be a lot of donors with problems but rather that the one or two rare donors with issues could cause a lot of problems. Even this solution is imperfect as not all genetic diseases are going to show themselves in a reasonable period of time. Some conditions don't show themselves until early adulthood or beyond. I think this is one additional step that could probably be implemented at relatively low cost that might help out. Ultimately though, life is still uncertain.

11/16/07 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9232>

I don't understand Dr. Jaegar's statement:

"Most couples that conceive a child without donor sperm know less about their genetic histories and possible outcomes than our clients know about their donors."

That statement makes no sense whatsoever to me. Why should an ordinary married couple brought up in

ordinary families who intimately know their parents, grandparents and siblings, know less about their genetic histories than someone who uses a twenty year old donor's sperm, whose main incentive to be frank is getting paid for jerking off and might not be scrupulous about his medical disclosure. Why does he think that a twenty year old college guy would know more than a married guy? If Dr. Jaegar is able to make such unthought through statements then he cannot be taken seriously in the reassurances he gives. Actually on analysis of the statement he basically admits that they hardly screen the donor at all for anything but STDs but rely on adverse feedback.

11/16/07 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9228>

Per Fairfax Cryobank's request, this is a letter to the Editor of Self Magazine from 2006 in response to the "Donor 1084" article that you can read on the www.donorsiblingregistry.com site under "Articles & Issues".

Dear Editor:

Your story, The Truth about Donor 1084 (October 2006), discusses some of the complex issues that arise when a child conceived through donor sperm manifests a medical issue, but the story does not fully explain how our Cryobank responds to those situations. For more than twenty years, Fairfax Cryobank has been committed to providing donor sperm that produces healthy babies. Fairfax Cryobank's screening and testing of its donors exceeds the testing required by the FDA. For example, Fairfax Cryobank is the first and only sperm bank that protects its female patients by using DNA genetic analysis to test sperm donors for high risk strains of HPV (Human Papillomavirus) known to cause cervical cancer, the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women in the US. But since more than 30,000 genes have been identified, it simply isn't possible to test for every possible genetic problem that could occur. And, frankly, no couple conceiving naturally could test for every possible genetic issue, either. Most couples that conceive a child without donor sperm know less about their genetic histories and possible outcomes than our clients know about their donors. Consider this fact -- in the general population, every pregnancy has about a 3%-4% risk of producing a child with a birth defect or mental deficiency. Our procedures reduce this risk, but cannot eliminate it.

We ask physicians and clients to notify us whenever they believe a child born by donor sperm has any medical condition. In the rare cases when we receive such notice, we immediately remove that donor from sale and investigate the report. We carefully gather as much information as we can on any reported condition, asking for a physician's diagnosis. Unfortunately, in many cases, we never receive a physician's diagnosis. Fairfax Cryobank's Medical Director is a physician who is a board certified pediatrician and clinical geneticist. He evaluates all adverse clinical reports, and if it appears to be useful, he orders additional testing of the donor in order to help clarify a donor's role. (We are, of course, dependent upon the mother for information about her medical history.) If our Medical Director determines that using a donor could raise the risk of occurrence of a significant medical condition or birth defect above the risk in the general population, we will restrict that donor, meaning that his sperm is no longer available for sale to the general public. In certain circumstances, however, we will allow this donor to remain available only to clients who already have a child by the same donor, allowing them a biological sibling. We will ship such a donor's sperm only after the client understands the risks, as best can be determined with the information given us, has an opportunity to discuss these issues with our medical staff, and has signed an informed consent. Clients and their physicians can then evaluate if it is appropriate to use the restricted donor.

Fairfax Cryobank is an industry leader in the screening and testing of its donors. We will continue to do everything possible to provide information to prospective mothers and mothers of babies conceived through donor sperm to ensure that they and their physicians can make the best decisions about their use of donor sperm.

William W. Jaeger
Director
Fairfax Cryobank
Fairfax, VA
October 19, 2006

11/9/07 | http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/4208

I conceived in '88 via Fairfax Cryo, finally in '93 I was able to see BLANK questionnaires identical to those filled out by my donor, in approx. '88 and told that if my donor had answered affirmatively to any of the "red flag" (my words) health questions, he'd have been rejected.

11/8/07	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/4204
<p>My son, 9, has been diagnosed with an anxiety disorder, that the doctors state has a genetic basis, of which there is no family history on my side. Ironically, I have pages of info from FF Cryobank about the donor, but no mention of any psych issues. Another reason for the cryobanks to request regular medical updates on donors. I would never expect a young man who donates sperm to have a grasp of all of the medical issues in his family. Again, as others have stated, the more info that we have, the better treatment we can offer our children.</p>	

11/1/07	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/4112
<p>I don't think you need to worry too much about which cryobank to use, at least not to the point of being "freaked out" about it. The reality is that most children conceived with donor sperm are healthy. As others have suggested, the DSR is a wonderful resource. Once you have narrowed down your choices, contact a couple of mothers who have used that donor, just to check that their children are healthy. The Donor 1084 story is frightening indeed, but unfortunately, most sperm banks have similar stories associated with them. Sometimes donors don't know their family health histories, sometimes they are too young to have developed signs of genetic disease, and sometimes, they deliberately lie about or conceal known problems. We all know the sperm banks can't investigate everything or test for every possible condition. What rankles is their effort to conceal problems they know of, and the fact that they often continue to sell sperm even after having been informed of genetically-related health issues in the offspring. Using an open donor is probably the best option, but not all husbands will go for this. Most of the people who post on this list are single mothers, who don't need to take into consideration a man's feelings in this situation. Also, the children who have a burning desire to know "who's my daddy" are usually those who don't have a loving father in their lives. You can also have great kids and a good experience with the sperm bank and connect with half-siblings if you use an anonymous donor. To me, the most important thing is to always be honest with your children. (And do your research, now that the DSR makes it possible.) For whatever it is worth, we used an anonymous Fairfax donor, I have no significant complaints about our experience with Fairfax, we have amazing seven-year-old twins, and, thanks to the DSR, we have the pleasure of knowing seven of our children's half-siblings.</p>	

11/1/07	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9175
<p>Fairfax told us lots of things that weren't true (I was a recipient in '88 and got pregnant my first try); if you look over the many emails re Fairfax, you'll get an idea of why I take anything they say w/ a grain of salt.</p>	

11/1/07	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9174
<p>I was a donor with Fairfax in the early nineties and had a few informal conversations with the guy who ran the local cryobank about this. It is my belief that at that time there was not a limit per se on the number of children who could be born to a donor. I do believe that there were some geographic restrictions. They supplied people all over the country and I think they would try and avoid having too many customers for a donor in a given geographic area especially if it was rural and had a smaller population. The main limiting factor on how many offspring that could be created was that they would only allow fifteen hundred doses to be taken. A dose at that time was something like twenty-five million cells and they could get a dozen or more from a good donation. They managed inventory and they knew how many total doses had been taken and how many had already been sold. If a donor was not selling all that well they might ask him to take a break from donating for a while until they moved out the excess inventory. I don't think that all donors gave the full fifteen hundred doses. I was a little bit short of that when I moved out of state and stopped donating. Given that most of the donors were students of some description, I think that is fairly common. I believe that one of the criteria for donating at that time was that they wanted people who were going to be able to donate for at least six months before they relocated. I was told at the time that only one out of eight inseminations resulted in a pregnancy and that only about one</p>	

in thirty resulted in a live birth. If you take that success ratio and compare it to a theoretical maximum of fifteen hundred inseminations, you have the possibility of perhaps fifty or so offspring per donor. Obviously some donors may be more successful than others at getting women pregnant so I suppose there could be some variation from that mean.

The technology of today probably leads to much higher success rates than fifteen or twenty years ago so I suspect that they may have had to tighten up the way things are done. I think that the problem in those days was that the doctors and parents did not reliably report live births to them and they really didn't have a good way of knowing how many offspring were created so they used a fairly crude statistical model to try and keep the number of offspring from any one donor to a reasonable number.

My suspicion is that the numbers are probably higher than some of you would imagine. There are some more recent donors on the DSR that have in excess of twenty matches. If that many people have found their way to the DSR, I imagine that there are at least an equal number who have not.

10/28/07 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9159>

I agree with you. I didn't know they could have so many until after I conceived. I wanted someone with past positive results, but he has over 50 known offspring. While I am thrilled to finally be pregnant I am a little freaked out by the amount of kids out there. Fairfax is still selling his sperm. I wish there was a bill limiting it too.

10/27/07 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9146>

That's just about the scariest thing I've ever read. After reading that I'd say, "20 families per donor" is sounding better by the moment. Too bad nothing they say can be quoted as the truth. OMG.

In 2006, the 'estimated' population for NYC was 19,306,183, so what does that mean- my daughter's donor could have 603+ off-springs in NYC alone?? And they call this self-regulating??

I wonder if our children will have to learn the hard way what a very small world it is.

10/27/07 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9145>

I didn't want to post publicly, but wanted to respond to your questioning about Fairfax. Actually, I spoke with Dr. Poole there last year and he explained that their policy is that a donor may have up to 25 reported pregnancies per population of 800,000 people. I asked him to fully clarify this. He said that they determine it by state population...so, say my state of Ohio has 5 million people in it. Then, my donor could have around 125 pregnancies reported in my state.

Make you sick? ME TOO!!! My donor now also has over 20 reported pregnancies and I am dying to propose a bill to congress that limits this sort of thing now that the method of conception is increasing in our culture. Without some system of checks and balances, this thing could get out of control. I even asked Dr. Poole if cryobanks thought of coming up with their own method of self-regulation and he claimed that their current policy does (joke!) Shoot, if they won't be responsible in the changing cultural climate, then unfortunately, perhaps the gov't. will have to.

10/27/07 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9144>

I thought of few ramifications- I just wanted a baby. But now that my daughter is here (she's 14 months) I find myself thinking a lot about half- siblings and her donor [much to the dismay of my partner]. Perhaps the recipients of donor sperm should be counseled much like egg donors. I don't know. All I know is this, I live in NYC, and I'm involved in the LGBT community and my cousin is involved in SMBC groups, and I cannot tell you how many women I've met [from both worlds] that have used donor sperm from CCB and Fairfax. I used to laugh when people would make comments like, "well what if they marry each other?" Now I'm beginning to wonder.

I was under the impression that there were national guidelines restricting the use of one donor to 20 families [as far as I know, TCSB is the ONLY bank that limits it to 10 families]-- but who's really keeping track of these things? How many women out there are not reporting pregnancies, and how many banks aren't counting pregnancies that happen at home without the aid of an RE's office?

[from moderator ML:

- 1) ASRM guidelines limit one donor to 25 live births per population area of 850,000. It's not clear what this actually means in practice, or how it can be enforced, especially as it's estimated that only 40% of births are reported, and we know that some donors have donated at two or more sperm banks.
- 2) The Rainbow Flag sperm bank limits a donor to children by 4-6 different women. Other countries typically have limits of 5-10 families.
- 3) The "rationale" for the "secrecy" of most sperm banks about limits seems to be that they are aware that many people are uncomfortable with the fact that some donors seem to have hundreds of genetic children.]

10/22/07 | Email to Wendy Kramer

I have a good story which may be a bit of a novelty.....

I purchased sperm through CanAm who were, in my case, operating as a 3rd party distributor. It is a fairly small operation and the people there are fantastic. Very open and accessible.

When my daughter was just over two we were informed by CanAm that the donor had been restricted and if we had any questions we should call the Fairfax geneticist. She was very responsive- another sibling (there are quite a few:)) had been born(roughly six weeks prior) with an ear deformity and a mild heart defect. There was no evidence that it was a genetic issue (on the part of the donor or the mom) but they couldn't be sure. The donor was placed on restricted status which to Fairfax means that the sperm will only be sold/used by women who already have a child by the donor and want a full sibling and only after they have "signed off" that they are aware of the situation with the child in question.

I was and continue to be very impressed by both companies and would recommend them.

P.S. I have since met the child in question and she is a bright, happy, healthy child. Another wonderful gift! ☺

10/20/07 | Email to Wendy Kramer

I went thru the Fairfax Richmond Va. Sperm bank. They are very good. I got everything I needed pertaining to getting the sperm that I wanted. All they ask is for you to contact them when you get pregnant and have the baby so that they can put the record under the donor. I have had no problem with this sperm bank. My doctor recommended it and I live in Baltimore, Maryland.

10/20/07 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9168>

In 1987 I am pretty sure we were told Fairfax limited it to 10- 20 "successes" per donor, but that could also include siblings from the same "order" and a few unreported. Since we already know of 7 and our donor was "no longer in the program" 5 years ago, he either met the limit (whatever that is) OR he dropped out OR Fairfax discovered that his offspring have health issues and self-regulated.

I sent an email to Fairfax some months ago asking pertinent questions and got no reply. I think we are entitled to know what is the number -- what is the limit.

I also know our doc here in Overland Park KS almost exclusively used Fairfax at the time (because it was the only reputable one to him), so that anyone wanting to get pregnant was looking at the very same "list" we were. And honestly, it wasn't that big of a list at the time. If they go by population and allow that many pregnancies, I think the odds are favorable that our children DO have dna matches in this area. Now I'll be suspicious of any other tall piano playing football players!

10/20/07 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9141>

Up until recently, I hadn't paid much attention to the cryobank integrity discussions in this forum but as our number of matches has surpassed 20 children I am finding myself increasingly annoyed by the fact that Fairfax has a policy of not disclosing the criteria for determining their numbers for distribution of a particular donor. I could have sworn when I ordered sperm from them in 2004 I read that they limited sales of a given donor to 10 families but maybe I am hallucinating. In any case...I am sure this has already been discussed but what is the rationale for this secrecy?

That being said, we've connected with 15 of the other families through a private discussion group born out of the DSR and recently had a reunion where 9 kids attended (all under the age of 4.) The connections are truly

remarkable and I am so glad to have these families as fixtures in our lives - particularly from such an early age for all our kids. But it's funny - as I get closer with the other families, and as the kids get older, the implications of the fertility clinic trade have taken on a much greater significance.

10/2/07 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/4000

As far as I know they were reported and the response was that they were the only ones.

--- On Oct 2, 2007, t wrote:

- > Were the children with your grandchildren reported and if so what
- > was Fairfax's response?

10/1/07 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3995

My grandchildren were born nearly six yrs ago and they are triplets. One is ADD, another autistic, and the third has no cognitive skills. She has multiple issues and poor motor skills. It was Fairfax, Va.

9/16/07 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/8936>

Several times over the years I have called the lab we used, Fairfax, and asked if they would be willing to track down updated medical info on our donor. The first time, I was told that they did make contact with the donor (which was somewhat impressive, considering how long ago he had made his "donations") but that he was hesitant to get involved. He had two kids of his own now and was unsure of how he should proceed. The woman who made the call actually told me that since the donor "did not close the door" entirely, that we should try again in a couple of years. So, I did. This time, they could not locate him with one simple call as they had done before. I was offered a panoply of services to initiate a deeper, more complete search. That is what we have finally agreed to do now.

That's where the "big bucks" come into play. It costs \$300 to do what the lab calls "a paid search." I'm not really sure what that involves, but it will allow them to take the necessary steps to get past the "return to sender" letter they apparently get when they try to send mail to his last known address. Anyhow, once that search has been completed, the lab will call us to say that they have exhausted all possibilities and cannot locate the donor - or that they have found him, he's willing to talk to them, and we now have our choice of several menu items: audio tape, donor essay, childhood photo, lifetime photos, etc. (There are additional fees for each of these - We do not know if we want any of these things, as we are primarily interested in medical info.)

9/7/07 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/8884>

I was in the same situation a few years back when I wanted an audio and essay on the donor and came across the same situation with Fairfax. It's ridiculous the cryobank doesn't keep track of the donors' current address. (This is referring to the following):

- > Since my last post to this group, where I told you all of how my
- > daughter is really wanting to know more about her donor and maybe
- > see his picture, and now she says hear him talk, I contacted the
- > sperm bank we used, CLI. I found that it is possible to get an
- > audio, some photos, an updated profile, a donor essay, some of the
- > things that were not available back when my donor was active. But it
- > costs an arm and a leg to do this, and I am not guaranteed anything,
- > as the donor can say no. There is a non-refundable \$300 fee to the
- > sperm bank just to get them to contact the donor. IF they find him,
- > they will ask him for the things I am interested in. Then it will
- > cost me these additional fees IF he consents to let me have them
- > (they will only bill my credit card for whatever I end up receiving):
- >
- > Paid to the donor:
- > personal profile w/essay \$200

- > essay \$100
- > audio interview \$200
- > childhood photo \$100
- > Lifetime Photo series \$500
- >
- > Processing Fees paid to CLI:
- > personal profile, audio, Lifetime Photos \$150 per item
- > essay or childhood photo \$50 per item

8/23/07 | http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3838

I have read this thread with interest, as my DI son just turned 14 this past Saturday. The last 6 months, he has been asking much more about his donor. He says he would like to meet him, or at least have some information, more than we have. I started insemination in August of 1992, with a FAIRFAX, donor. I had my son in August of 1993. All we have is a half page with blood type, height/weight, interest, etc. Nothing more is available. I have talked to Fairfax in the past year to check, and for a PRICE(high) they will TRY to track the donor and see if he would be willing to provide more info, like a baby picture, essay, voice recording, etc. But no refunds or guarantees.

If I get rich, I will pay and try it, but as a single mom on disability, I cannot afford it right now. I am sure my son would actually be happy with just a first name, so he can say, my donor "y", instead of my donor, "###". Makes it a little more personable. Anyway, I have everything relating to my son's creation/birth as I knew he would probably be the only one, and I had such a hard time becoming pregnant. I signed NOTHING about the donor staying anonymous, etc. I would never dare to intrude on the donor, but would, for my child, if I could, try to find a name, or whatever I could. If I was able to find him, although highly unlikely, as I said, we have a half page of basic info, I would offer him the chance to know my son, whether through email, in person, or whatever he felt comfortable with, or not at all, it would be his decision. But I WOULD ask for information, a name, maybe a baby picture. Then we would leave him alone, and be happy with what we have. I respect everyone's own personal feelings/opinions on this matter, I believe no one is right or wrong, it is a matter of your own personal experience, feelings, etc. but, I had NO choice in the matter of anonymous/known donors back then, and NEVER signed a thing about not finding the donor, or letting him remain anonymous. And I would do about anything for my child to get peace/feel at ease about his creation, including finding out WHATEVER information on his other biological half I could.

8/22/07 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/8836>

- > Good news though, Fairfax has been trying to contact all their past
- > and present donors to get an updated medical, background, education,
- > career, etc., information. They have plans to update their website
- > so we can access this information

Fairfax also told me this the other day. But, the woman I spoke with also added that they would only be posting updates on still active donors or donors who are still listed on the site, NOT donors who are restricted, terminated, etc. So, to get these updates (assuming they actually happen and I hope they do), you will need to call. I asked how would I even know when to call and was told to call about once a year (not exactly a good communication plan in my opinion). Maybe they'll come up with a better way such as a blast email or letter to those who sign up for updates on a specific donor??

8/22/07 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/8835>

I heard back from Fairfax Cryobank today and a child conceived from the same donor I chose was born with a birth defect. Both the donor and the biological mother were tested and apparently the cause of the defect was due to a recessive gene that the donor was not aware of. Luckily, my child is past the point where this would have been a medical issue for her, however, it could become an issue when/if she decides to have children. I asked the Genetics Counselor if or how they notify individuals if a major health issue arises with the donor. Since live births are not always reported, the Cryobank will contact the doctor's office to where vial(s) were delivered. If there was a live birth, the Cryobank mainly relies on the doctor to locate the parent(s). However, in the event of a MAJOR issue, the Cryobank will try to locate the parent(s) as well.

Well....

I am no longer a patient of the OB/GYN office that handled my insemination and I've relocated, so if this was a MAJOR issue the doctor's office would most likely not have been able to locate me. I just happened to find out about this because I was looking to see if there was more/updated information about the donor that I could give to my daughter.

Good news though, Fairfax has been trying to contact all their past and present donors to get an updated medical, background, education, career, etc., information. They have plans to update their website so we can access this information. In addition, they are trying to compile a database of parent information so in the event that a medical issue comes up the parent(s) can be contacted.

If you used a donor from Fairfax, I would suggest you contact them to be added to the list....better safe than sorry!!

7/12/07

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/8677>

I am a single mom (by choice), too. I used Fairfax and was pleased with my experiences with them (though my doctor's office handled most of it, I did call occasionally to make sure a particular donor was still in stock/available).

7/9/07

http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3523

I totally understand what you are saying because I had the experience where I called Fairfax and all I wanted to know was if my donor had fathered more girls than boys. They wouldn't even tell me this, so I knew that if anything, down the road I was on my own. They are as tight lipped as can be and I think you're right, that once the sale is over don't go back with questions because they won't give you answers. Of course they probably hold this position to keep from being sued, which sadly, in this day and age makes sense.

7/9/07

http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3515

Make sure you read the "refund" part....We used Fairfax for 3 donors and all 3 had LOW sperm count. Not even our doctor told us there was a process to get a refund if there is no pregnancy and low sperm count. Once we switched to CCB (Cal cryo) we had high sperm numbers. Just because we got low numbers at Fairfax doesn't mean you will. I have heard other women have the exact opposite experience. We lost thousands not knowing about the refund...it doesn't help the lost months, but at least the pocket feels better.

7/9/07

http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3514

For the record, we used Fairfax at my doctor's recommendation, and my only complaints are minor and have to do with slow communication (after the fact, when I was no longer an active customer). However, they seemed quick and efficient at the actual selling/shipping end of the business, and we sure are satisfied with the final product!!!

7/8/07

http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/349

I researched banks/donors for at least a month. I was open to sperm banks all over the country and as I narrowed down the candidates I requested expanded profiles etc. My three sons are amazing! My oldest is 5 1/2 and my twins are 4 1/2. They are brilliant and look like Ralph Lauren models!

---In Donor Sibling Registry Discussion ---- wrote:

Hi, M. how did you decide on Fairfax? On which donor to use? My husband and I are currently in the process of choosing a donor and there is so much to consider/decide/mull over.

7/6/07

http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3474

My understanding is part of the screening criteria for donors is how well the samples take freezing and thawing. I am sure most banks do test for this. However, they cannot account for a donor's weekly activities and diet prior to donation that can affect the quality of his samples from batch to batch. My guess is that

varying quality from the same donor has more to do with that than what the bank is doing. When I asked Fairfax about the number of pregnancies reported from my donor they would not tell me how many. Just that there were pregnancies reported. Those numbers themselves are not conclusive anyway since so many doctors and patients don't report the pregnancies back to the banks.

7/6/07 | http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3472

Fairfax Cryobank was great! I still have frozen sperm AND frozen embryos! My three sons are extremely handsome and intelligent, not to mention tall and personable. They are amazing boys! I went through the Cornell IVF program in NYC (Celine Dion's doctor) I would love to donate and help anyone through any stage of the process.

7/6/07 | http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3469

We had the opposite experience with using 8 vials from California Cryobank. A few had awesome counts, but several were very low. One was only 3 million. I too felt like my entire cycle was wasted those months. We switched to a donor at Fairfax and so far his counts are pretty good, but not excellent. They do have a guarantee so you can get your money or at least part back from the sperm bank, but if it doesn't work you still waste all the money on the process, medications, etc. There should be a way for them to increase the counts. I'm sure they use as little as possible in each vial to make the most money from it.

7/6/07 | http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3467

Just an additional note - I had just contacted my doctor's office this morning. The donor I chose (from CCB) is no longer providing vials and I wanted to make sure that I still had a current list. When I got a call back, I was told that they would no longer accept vials from Fairfax for this very reason.

7/6/07 | http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3457

I would like to offer up my experience and 2cents.... I have been thru 4 donors, the first 3 were from Fairfax. All of the files had LOW sperm counts. (averaged 5 mill) I think we bought 2 vials per donor....3 of the vials from Fairfax were unusable.... So, not only were we out the vials, those were precious months we lost as well. For any NEW member who is just now researching, please know that there are guarantees on sperm count....I did not know that when we had those bad vials. I do wish my doctor told me that. We lost hundreds of dollars and precious time. We switched to California Cryobank for our last donor...and were successful. I know it is just my experience, and I am sure there are others out there with that experience with California... Know that if you get a bad vial, there are refunds, but only in a limited amount of time...we didn't know.

5/11/07 | http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3120

Earlier today as I scanned the Fairfax lists I saw at least 8 donors with 10 or more children reported. The average for these 8 donors was just over 18 reported births spread over an average of just over 12 families which if you take into account families with full siblings is not that bad. For one donor though the reported offspring was 30 births spread over 23 families. Still even there the majority of those families are at 1 child only. I know nothing of regional cut offs by Fairfax.

5/11/07 | http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3118

The CCB website indicates they limit offspring to 20-30 worldwide and that the average number of offspring is 10-30 "reported" per donor. I imagine though there are likely a lot of women who don't report pregnancies or births. I'm currently using Fairfax Cryobank and while they don't have an overall limit they do limit per region. They didn't say at what number they start to limit.

4/23/07	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3030
<p>I want to mention that 19 yrs. ago when I became a DI (pregnant) mom, the party line from Fairfax Cryo, was that married couples "should keep it a secret" single moms (me) must "tell, tell, tell"! Yes, now it seems crazy to take away from your child HIS personal info; we were all so crazy & desperate to get pregnant.</p>	
3/14/07	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10247
<p>I just noticed a Fairfax donor number on the DSR with 12 kids, the oldest born in 1991, the youngest listed was born in 2007. I did not realize that sperm banks sold sperm for 17 or more years.</p>	
3/13/07	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/8418
<p>I've belonged to DSR for about 14 mos. and have also contacted Fairfax Cryobank. I used specimens from Fairfax 3/88 and lost my donor # as Fairfax said that they threw out all records 6 mos. after "the birth." I remember everything about the donor, except his #; my son and I would like to get it.</p>	
1/10/07	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/2795
<p>I have never met the donor I used but I have met one of the half- siblings of my twins and her parents. 14 wouldn't intimidate me anymore though because we know of at least 53 so far...well there are 9 that are still in the womb. We also know of 4 couples that are trying to conceive and are probably going to use the same donor as long as he is available. The rest are 4yrs old and younger. (we have a yahoo group with our donor number is how we know all this) We had no idea that we would ever meet any and never imagined that there would be so many of them. When doing my research, I was led to believe that they cut off the donor at 10 children. Then after I found the others and contacted them (we were at about 20 then) I was told they only limit to 25 per 850,000 population. I was shocked. So according to that the possibilities are endless.</p>	
1/1/07	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/8232
<p>I conceived by DI 19 yrs. ago and was told all the records were destroyed; many of us have since discovered that to be a lie. 5 yrs later Fairfax Labs where my sperm was from, agreed to send me a blank copy of the questionnaire my donor had filled out so I could see what medical problems might be genetic. If the potential donor had indicated a history of any maladies listed, he would be disqualified. After reviewing the questionnaire, I agreed to put my 4&1/2 yr. old mentally ill son on psychotropic drugs as I saw no history of turrets syndrome i.e., which can be triggered by psychotropic drugs especially w/ genetic history.</p>	
11/24/06	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/2744
<p>It's been more than two years since the mothers of my son's half siblings began reporting their obvious and sometimes severe genetic conditions. My son is only 15 months old... doing the math you can see that they knew about these well before he was even conceived. He was 5 months old before I found his siblings, five months of repeatedly calling the bank and being told that nothing was wrong. Even after they had pictures, medical documentation, and other PROOF from multiple mothers, they still continued to sell his sperm and inform people that there were no reported problems. I myself called several times just to see what they were saying, and each time I was told all the kids were perfectly healthy (I was pretending to be interested in purchasing). Finally after getting the national and local media involved, 9 months after I first began fighting them to pull this donor, he has been permanently restricted to sibling use only. We had purchased an additional nine vials and planned on using him again if at all possible, and made a hard choice not to use him again and have the vials destroyed. I don't regret it, but I am pissed that I was put in the position of deciding if it was more important for my kids to be biological siblings or the second one to be healthy.</p>	
11/1/06	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/8077
<p>I got notice from Fairfax this morning that after nine months of fighting with them, and after more than 2</p>	

years of medical reporting from myself and sibling parents, they have finally decided to restrict our donor for siblings only. In a way I am sad, because it's "proof" that there is something so wrong with the kids that it shouldn't be replicated, and also because the siblings we have might be the only ones we'll ever find, but mostly I am happy. No one else will have to watch their kid go through what we have, and no other kids will have to suffer like ours have (and still do).

I think it's only because of the media speculation they are getting right now, but in the end I don't care why they did it. They did it. We still have nine vials. They have FINALLY offered us a credit on those, but we don't want to use FF again. Hopefully they will give us a refund and we can cut ties with them forever.

10/18/06 | http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/2684

I have no idea how thoroughly potential donors are vetted (I know there's a big hoopla about how few donors are accepted, but believe that's due more the sperm quality), but I do have experience in how completely the sperm banks presume it's always due to the mother if there is a problem. I pressed CCB and Fairfax quite rigorously re: whether different donors had had any reported issues, and they steadfastly maintained "no" and if there were problems, they wouldn't necessarily trace it to the donor. For example, sperm banks attribute Down's Syndrome only to the mother, but the fact of the matter is that it can result from both male and female factors. I've also been shocked at the health issues that different donors have within their families, from breast cancer to other serious diseases that can be inherited. I know the sperm banks say that just because a guy's grandmother has breast cancer in her 40s, it's not hereditary, but the fact is that most of these guys and their parents are too young to truly see if the donor and/or his parents or their siblings will also suffer from the same disease. I consider ourselves fortunate that the donor we selected was in his 30s and his father was in his 40s when he was born, so we have some sense of what diseases have been in his family. That's if you can trust the information - I know I'd have a hard time knowing the exact health of all my brothers, aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents even though we all are healthy and tend to live a long time. And I doubt most donors are that open w/their families so they can really gather detailed info. My mother or father would be all over one of my brothers if they started asking detailed questions like that.

From my experience, I do believe the sperm banks purposefully do not maintain adequate records for donors - for CCB and Fairfax at least, if you call to find out how many pregnancies have resulted from a donor (important information in many respects), they say they don't know other than at least 1 pregnancy was/wasn't reported. That's complete BS. I also remember my fertility doctor telling us to avoid a sperm bank in Atlanta (or somewhere in the Southeast) because she had heard of or actually seen problems with their donors.

So after reading the Self article and hearing about the CCB lawsuit, both of which are horrifying, it seems obvious to me that:

1) sperm banks need to increase their self-regulation, otherwise outside regulation will be needed. This includes, at a minimum, screening and verifying donor-provided information more thoroughly, counseling donors re: longterm consequences and outcomes, maintaining more complete information re: pregnancies and the concerns raised by "purchasers," and paying donors for updated medical information and perhaps personal details/pictures/etc., which they can then sell to those of us with kids. Yes, it will result in a higher cost for the sperm, but well worth it.

2) these type of issues need to be broadcast beyond the donor sibling chat boards, since the vast majority of people doing DS have no idea these issues even exist. I'm a perfect example - I had no idea about any of this - the registry, concerns, etc. - and I was all over the internet searching for donors.

10/18/06 | http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/2682

Re: [DSR_Discussion] Self Magazine Article

The article was okay. There were a lot of things left out, but I think she did a pretty good job. Unfortunately the article didn't portray the depth of the insults and denial we have received (and continue to receive) from Fairfax, getting to the point of even questioning whether or not we actually used that sperm (we're lesbians, if we had some on hand we wouldn't be buying it).

In Dr. Stephen Pool's opinion, the problem lies solely with the mothers and it is impossible that any of the problems came from 1084. He then goes on to tell me that there is only a 50% chance of a recurrence of these problems and he believes this to be a reasonable risk to take. Tell this to the child who spent 7 months of his life without skin, who endures hours of tedious and sometimes painful care and treatment each day to combat and

control his problems, who just yesterday was held down and poked with 14 gauge needles and screamed and choked until he finally just passed out from the pain and terror. Tell this to the child who is covered head to toe in bruises because his platelets cannot form and hold a clot, who requires round the clock nebulizer treatments just to breathe, who is on oral steroids on a monthly basis. Ask the CHILDREN if 50% is a safe enough risk. I don't think it is.

10/18/06 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/2675

I am someone who was lied to by a sperm bank, continues to be lied to, and has a sick child. My life (and the life of the people raising my son's siblings) is a daily struggle to keep him skin on his body. Several hours a day are devoted to cleaning him, lotioning him, dressing and treating his wounds, etc. All the kids that I have contacted through the DSR have the exact same problems, and yet Fairfax still sells the sperm and tells unsuspecting buyers that there is nothing wrong. It's been over a year that I have been fighting with them to give me SOME information and pull that man's sperm, but still they do nothing, Instead I am accused of lying and causing these problems with my child, and blamed and told it's my fault. They have no desire or need to do the right thing and step up, because they know they are untouchable. Sure I could sue them, but I am one person and they are a giant corporation. It's not going to stop, and they know there is nothing I can do. So, more sick children continue to be born and my child and his siblings continue to suffer because they want more money.

9/14/06 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/2582

From Fairfax website:

Fairfax Cryobank was established in 1986 and provides infertile patients with anonymous donor semen in the United States and many foreign countries. We are currently seeking healthy college educated men of all backgrounds between the ages of 18 - 39. This program requires a six month commitment and each donor is expected to produce at least one specimen per week on site, therefore you must live or work near one of our facilities.

9/7/06 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/2500

As most, when we started out this was going to be our family secret, and never gave thought to an open donor. Since then the DSR has opened my mind, and this should not be a secret. The anonymous donor (Fairfax) I used had been donating for over ten years. (The philosophy, "what people don't know won't hurt them"). Just in the last few months he was placed in the inactive category. So far I know of 15 half sibs, but probably over a hundred is more conceivable, including my two full siblings. We selected this donor for the qualities that he possessed. My children are good natured, bright, beautiful and very active. I am very, very happy to have selected this donor. (As far as I know there are no health issues, which is a plus in a large group.) I do have concerns with the number of half siblings, but with a larger group there is a greater chance of connecting with half siblings, which I think is a positive and the secrets go away. I hope our donor and other donors are not scared off by the number of offspring. It may not be possible to have a close relationship with this number of offspring (for us that's why we chose an anonymous donor) but an informational letter (the kind we send out for the holidays) could still be shared and the donor's privacy kept. What my children may want or not want is not known yet. But I think almost everyone has a curiosity, but may not want a relationship, of what their bio-parents may look like and in general what they have accomplished in life.

9/6/06 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/2477

First, let me cut you all off by stating that when I joined the registry and started my group that there were only 6 of us and that included multiples! Please, try to be a little considerate of those of us, and our children, that actually have to deal with this situation! We are not to blame for choosing a donor... Fairfax is to blame for being careless in my own opinion! Yes..... 45 that we know of! I'm sure there are probably at least 100 out there! Some of our numbers are

multiple births, others are siblings, and I am okay with that... it's the unknown that is beginning to worry me and the lack of care on Fairfax's behalf. You should hear the run around Fairfax gave me over the phone. We, as a group, are working with the clinic to regulate the donor, at least in the mid-Atlantic region where his numbers are higher. There are more people out there that are still trying to conceive with him as well. I'm going to try to address these issues in one e-mail since they are both related.

According to Fairfax, the average length of time one normally donates is 12-18 months.... our donor has been doing it for five years. Thus, he has produced a much larger number of offspring.

As for reporting births, Fairfax has changed its mind so many times it's not even funny. When I was pregnant, I received a form telling me to report my own pregnancy, others have told me that they were informed that only their doctor could report their pregnancies and that Fairfax refused to accept the information from them. So, chances are that they don't know how many children there really are.

However, according to Fairfax, a donor is limited to 25 live births per 850,000 population and since they ship overseas it is almost impossible for any donor to meet that criteria!

So, instead of focusing on my group alone, I know that there are other groups around with numbers growing in the upper 20's and 30's! How do they feel? Our group has no interest in meeting the donor or bringing him out. That is not our interest. The way you are all going back and forth, as if you all know what is going on, makes it look like a bad tabloid! So please excuse me if I feel a bit inclined to stand up for my group. Just remember, we are not to blame for choosing the donor... the clinic is to blame for not having a set limit to the amount of children one should be responsible for producing or how long one can donate for.

9/5/06 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/2462

I tried to report my son's birth numerous times, and Fairfax refused to accept the report. I also tried reporting his health problems dozens of times, complete with medical records, and again they refused to acknowledge that he had even been born, or that he was sick. I also know that his sibling's mom tried reporting that child's medical problems and they ignored it as well, and never passed the info on to me when I specifically asked BY NAME for these conditions the other child was diagnosed with.

8/3/06 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/7667>

We found out about these problems from the sperm bank after we asked question. This donor donated from at least 1986 (the first list he showed up on that I have--he may have donated before that even) and got pulled in 2002. He donated until at least 2000, I am not sure about 2001 and 2002. There were hundreds of vials left that just "disappeared" so I think he must have donated longer than 2000. And the impression I got when talking to a couple people from there, the donor should not have been donating that long with that list of problems. He only got pulled because of the one sperm bank buying out the other one and going through all the donor records. The geographical restrictions we have from his profile (and a couple kids we know who are not listed on those restrictions) give us the 21 offspring number, those are the ones reported. We don't know about the ones who did not report their children being born. I am the mom of the autism spectrum disorder kids, and I know for a fact that I reported it in 1997 or 1998 and was told it was not hereditary but they would mark it in my file in case someone else had the same problem. Then it would be red-flagged. I found out about the cleft palate and the heart problems just recently (my kids are 13 and 15 now) when the latest sibling's mom found me through the story the Minneapolis paper did. She had just recently gotten her first health history on the donor (her child is 18) when she called the sperm bank to inquire about what was in the donor's health history. They sent her the profile they had. Whoever she talked to told her about the cleft palate, the autism, the Asperger's, PDD, and the heart problems. She let me know so I called to inquire about the heart issues to see if maybe our kids could have problems down the line. "Well, I don't know, I will have to have the geneticist call you back." When she called and I asked about the possibility of my kids or their kids having problems she told me the only way to be sure was to have echocardiograms done on my kids. She answered my questions, but only because I called and asked them. When I told my doctor of the latest developments he didn't think that my kids had any issues, as he never heard anything when examining them. So then I asked him about people who find out years later that they indeed had a small hole or other problem that wasn't caught until it got worse, he said that he would order echoes for both kids to be sure. I had to get in touch with the geneticist for her to send documentation for insurance and coding (they coded it as a family history of heart problems), and the geneticist e-mailed me a short note telling that a half-sibling was found to have heart problems, no further information was available. The one she referred to was discovered at age 7 to have an enlarged heart

resulting from a small hole. I got the echoes done, and my son does have a problem they have to watch. He has to get another echo done in November (6 months after the first) to see if things have changed. He will have to be monitored for I don't know how long. Now if I had not found this sibling and her mom had not discovered the heart problems in siblings, I still would not have known about my son's problem. The sperm bank had all this information in their own notes on the donor, but it is nowhere in the profile. My profile that I got was sent to me in November of 2002 after I called to tell them I wanted a health history to see what else might be "lurking" in the future as far as health issues--and I repeated to them again about the autism and Asperger's affecting my kids. These problems (cleft palate, autism, Asperger's, and congenital heart) were already known to the sperm bank when I called in 2002 because the geneticist went back in the notes and was giving me dates of when they were reported. The whole problem is that they did not offer me any information at all until I asked just recently. How many of the parents of DI kids think they have to ask for information that should be sent to them being it has to do with their children's health? I am not angry or upset with the donor, I am glad I have my kids. I am a little upset at the sperm bank because they had valuable information they did not share with me that I really needed. How many more of these kids have a problem or problems that could be monitored if the parents and doctors knew of the possibility of their existence? I know with the Asperger's it is very hard to diagnose. I went 3 or 4 years knowing there was something going on (I picked up on it after my daughter was diagnosed with the autism at age 2 1/2 and saw similarities in my son's actions) and I was tired of hearing, "Oh, he's so smart and there is nothing wrong." Those dealing with Asperger's will know what I am talking about. It was a relief to finally get a diagnosis and know I was not crazy. Because they are thinking the Autism Spectrum Disorders may be inherited now, I am wondering how many (if any) of these siblings may be affected and if the parents are struggling to figure it out. That is why people should be notified. Not everything anymore is spelled out in black and white. And if you know about the possibility of something being there you will take the signs more seriously. Once we know about the problems though, the sperm bank was cooperative and answered my questions. It should not have taken me calling them to ask about something I didn't even know was a possibility of affecting my kids.

8/2/06 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/7664>

How shocking & sad to read about this case & the way it has been handled by CLI/Fairfax. Making matters worse is the fact that this man's sperm was being marketed for 20 years. Is it common practice to keep selling a donor's sperm for so long? It sure makes me wonder how many years he was 'donating' for! Moreover, it's hard to believe that there are only 21 pregnancies after 20 years. It seems likely that a great many more have resulted, & many more children & families have suffered as a result.

8/2/06 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/7662>

The offspring from Donor #### have had enough problems (autism, congenital heart defects) that the donor's sperm was recently withdrawn from the market, after a run of nearly 20 years and at least 21 reported pregnancies in the Upper Midwest and elsewhere. Unfortunately, CLI/Fairfax is not voluntarily making an effort to contact the families of resulting offspring. In both the case of autism and some congenital heart defects, early detection is vital to a favorable outcome.

8/2/06 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/7661>

You might ask your doctor for a sperm bank recommendation. Ours preferred Fairfax Cryobank, for reasons of sample quality, and we have certainly been happy with the resulting children! :-)

5/23/06 | http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/2065

Please clarify. Fairfax Cryogenics gave you a paper document that said a donor's maternal uncle had depression, you asked for additional information, they told you verbally that the depression was "just a passing thing" and that he was "fine" and then you saw on the Internet that it said he had "manic depression," but the pregnancy from that donor did not go to term, and you used a different donor for your daughter? Do you remember the donor number for the donor who had a maternal uncle with manic depression (bipolar disorder), and do you know if they are still offering this sperm to patients?

----- wrote:

> It's been a few months since I found my 6 year old daughter's 1/2
> sibling, only one so far but that is fine with me. Will they ever meet?
> Maybe, maybe not. Her 1/2 sibling is older, I'm not sure if her Mom
> has told her or not and I will respect her wishes. My daughter at
> this point thinks I wanted a baby so God gave me one, and that's the
> way I want it for now. My first donor had a Maternal Uncle
> with "depression." I called Fairfax and asked the extent of this man's
> depression. I was told it was just a passing thing and he is fine
> now. I became pregnant and on my first sonogram there was no
> heartbeat. I chose to have a DNC. During my recovery and hormone
> reversal, I decided to get on the internet to Fairfax and see if I
> could get more info about this donor. Lo and behold on the internet
> version it said "Manic Depression" I called Fairfax and asked them
> why the word "Manic" was left out of the written version of the
> history. I was told "there wasn't enough room on the printed
> version." I called the my Andrologist to get rid of the sperm and I
> called Fairfax to tell them how important that little word is. This
> man was honest and told them but they obviously didn't think it was
> important. Needless to say my child's donor is just a regular guy, no
> sky high SAT scores, didn't go to Harvard, but she is healthy,
> loving, good natured and wise. Thank you Donor 0260, I don't expect
> anything from you, you have given me the most wonderful gift in the
> world.

5/22/06 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/7312>

My first donor had a Maternal Uncle with "depression." I called Fairfax and asked the extent of this man's depression. I was told it was just a passing thing and he is fine now. I became pregnant and on my first sonogram there was no heartbeat. I chose to have a DNC. During my recovery and hormone reversal, I decided to get on the internet to Fairfax and see if I could get more info about this donor. Lo and behold on the internet version it said "Manic Depression" I called Fairfax and asked them why the word "Manic" was left out of the written version of the history. I was told "there wasn't enough room on the printed version." I called my Andrologist to get rid of the sperm and I called Fairfax to tell them how important that little word is. This man was honest and told them but they obviously didn't think it was important.

4/8/06 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6986>

I just wanted to publicly thank Amy from CLI for providing my 18 year old daughter and I with all the non-identifying information about my daughter's biological father that she had in his file. After a further exchange of emails between Amy and myself (related to my less than positive post here concerning my prior experience with CLI), we were able to figure out that some of the misunderstanding happened due to faulty batteries on cell phones on my end. For that, Amy, please accept my apologies. Amy was very sweet and understanding. My daughter and I now have a much better understanding of where she gets some of her talents and how much larger her family is. Though Amy was unable to tell us how many 1/2 siblings there are from this man's donations, she did ask if we had checked on the DSR website or posted there. To me that is very significant - I hope that becomes the normal practice of all sperm banks to refer people to the website. I also hope that it indicates that CLI will be posting a link on their own website to www.donorsiblingregistry.com soon. I think it would show any doubters how progressive they are becoming.

4/3/06 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/1805

My son has 4 mental illness diagnoses; docs wanted me to put him on meds at age 2 But as I knew NOTHING of the donor's family history & Torettes specifically can kick in or worsen when psychotropic drugs are used, I waited till 4&1/2 to medicate (by then Fairfax would release blank copies of tests donors took, & would be rejected if they had family history of Torettes i.e.)

4/3/06	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6848
<p>I also used Fairfax and called them after my son was born. They told me that the doctor had an obligation to contact them and I didn't need to worry about it. Of course the fertility clinic could only report a pregnancy -- not a live birth, since I went to my regular OB/GYN for my pregnancy so the clinic wouldn't know of a live birth. (I called and told my doctor, but I certainly was not required to do so).</p>	

4/1/06	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6793
<p>I used Fairfax to conceive my beautiful daughter. When I called to register the birth they told me that the doctor who inseminated me would have to call. The clinic I used is now closed so that is impossible. I want to ensure that we get any information that we should receive.</p>	

3/29/06	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6744
<p>I totally agree. I am not sure how we got onto the "sperm banks are the Evil Empire" topic but if it was not for Fairfax Cryobank, my son would not exist as he is now, and that would be unthinkable. I had some issues with Fairfax, but overall my experience has been very positive, and the staff there that I have interacted with have been highly accommodating and have gone out of their way to make me a very satisfied customer. They are also looking into offering identity release donors, which shows me that they are listening to their customers and are responsive to the marketplace. I say this not intending to minimize the experiences that others have had.</p>	

3/28/06	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6696
<p>I recently found out that our donor got taken off the available list after over 10 years of donating because there were offspring born with autism, PDD, Asperger's (I can vouch for those three, as they affect my kids and I reported them), cleft palate, and two cases of congenital heart problems. I found this out through another mom who had contacted CLI to ask for medical information on the donor—she had none at all and was one of the first to use him. CLI (or Fairfax because they have bought out CLI, along with a bunch of other smaller sperm banks who could not make it on their own, although they are still operating under their other names) gave her a copy of the donor profile because they still had one available. I called CLI and told them what I had learned and Dr. Poole told me it was true. I asked if they ever contact affected recipients when conditions arise in offspring and they are notified of problems. He said they don't update if the donor is no longer donating (kind of skirted around my question of why they don't let us recipients know). The problem is that Fairfax bought out CLI in March of 2002, and when they went through all the records they said this person should not have been used with the conditions in resultant offspring listed. They never sold any of his sperm when it belonged to Fairfax. CLI is the one who sold it, and Fairfax kind of inherited all the issues that are coming up now. I still think that no matter who owns CLI now, or any sperm bank for that matter, if they know of potential problems in offspring they owe it to the recipients to notify them of the problems so if they are in the other kids they can be caught earlier (especially with the autism spectrum disorders because the earlier you start working with them the better). I was worried about the heart problems so Dr. Poole had one of Fairfax's geneticists call me. She said anytime those kind of problems show up in a sibling there could be the possibility of the other siblings being affected. One was an enlarged heart from a possible small hole in the heart and that can show up later in a child so she advised me to have my kids' doctor do an echocardiogram just to be sure. She did not think these problems would be passed to the next generation but couldn't say for sure.</p>	

3/28/06	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6677
<p>What you have to understand is that my daughter was conceived 19 years ago. I don't believe that should make a difference with CLI but apparently it does. The only piece of information I received from my doctor's office (who ordered from CLI) was the list of donors from which I picked. When I recently called CLI, Joy was my point of contact - at the time I didn't know that CLI was part of Fairfax and that is where Joy is located. Joy told me that they no longer had my donor's file and then proceeded to give me the "if you want to spend \$300, maybe..." speech. There are some possible genetic conditions my daughter inherited so Joy told me to</p>	

send her an email and she would forward it to their medical department - nothing received back to date. I followed up with an additional email when a friend from DSR told me that on CLI's website it specifically states that all donor/recipient files are kept indefinitely AND that CLI will make a reasonable attempt to provide any "non-identifying" information on the donor. There has been no response to that email either. The last phone call I made, I specifically asked to speak to someone because Joy was out of the office. I was told because my donor was from such a long time ago I would have to speak to Amy. I was put on hold for a few minutes and when I was connected was put directly into Amy Hagen's voicemail. Obviously, no one wants to speak to me because I left a detailed voicemail and no one has ever returned my call. It makes me sad but there is no point getting angry - wasted energy. I only wish I could give my daughter a little more information. She's 18 years old and has handled this newly acquired knowledge about her beginnings admirably. When I read all the non-identifying information the banks provide now, I would be lying if I said I wasn't jealous. We all want the best for our children and I think it's a shame that there appears to be so little understanding on the part of some of these banks.

3/28/06 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6669>

Call Joy Bader at CLI. She is the director of Customer Service. Her direct dial number is 703-289-1753. CLI sold a vial of sperm to someone else out of sperm that I had purchased over a year ago. She has been relatively helpful in resolving this situation. Hopefully she can help you too.

3/28/06 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6667>

I've been lied to by Dr. Poole, and if you question them on anything, they will stop returning calls. They are not trustworthy at all (imo).

3/28/06 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6665>

I met Dr. Poole personally 2 weeks ago and he seemed very nice and sincere but you never know!!! He was the one who researched my donor because a lady called in the say that her child was having seizures. I hope there is no HIDING anything in this case.

3/28/06 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6662>

Just to put in a good word for Fairfax, I have found them to be friendly and responsive in my (admittedly limited) contacts with them. But as I recall, they are sometimes slow at answering emails. You may just be dealing with a slow response rather than a deliberate lack of response.

3/28/06 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6661>

I don't trust anyone at Fairfax farther than I can spit. Especially Dr. Pool, who is a lying SOB if there ever was one. I can't go *too* far into all of it, but if you haven't bought yet, stay away from FF. I've caught them in so many lies it's horrible, and there are 2 children suffering very badly because of their desire to make a buck. And even though it has now been proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that my son's and his siblings' problems came from the donor, they refuse to acknowledge it and continue to sell the sperm. But because of them, i have a very sick child (and they knew about all the problems his siblings had before my son was ever conceived) and boatloads of medical bills and they STILL won't acknowledge it or apologize or even buy back the leftover sperm I have in storage. And I would give the \$450 to find out more if I had it, but they won't even do that for me. They KNOW they've done wrong and won't even return phone calls now and won't take ANY reports from my son's doctors about his health problems.

3/28/06 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6658>

I bought vials from the Fairfax Cryobank and could not purchase them because a mother called in the say that her child was having seizures. Now he is clear. I am so glad they are investigating the matter.

3/27/06	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6654
<p>I was conceived through Fairfax Cryobank. Before I found outlets for searching for my biological father and half-siblings, I e-mailed the bank several times requesting medical information. I never even got any kind of reply. Besides that, I have a feeling that the bank may not even know where my donor's information is anymore.</p>	

3/27/06	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6648
<p>Sent to me by a mother of a child with medical conditions, after she asked Fairfax to help her get updated medical information on her donor: "The Fairfax Cryobank told me if I paid a fee of \$450 they would TRY TO contact the donor for me to get current medical/health information, but it's not guaranteed to locate him."</p>	

3/20/06	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6467
<p>I agree with you. I have a donor in storage and well I was unable to use him in my last IUI due to last min RESTRICTIONS against my donor. Apparently, a woman called in at the last minute (3 days before my IUI) claiming that her baby was having seizures. Dr. Poole (Lab Dr.) talked to me and told me that I could not pick up his sperm for my IUI and therefore I could make an equal swap which is what I did. I am glad they put my donor under investigation and area taking precautions. Last week he was clear and there were no genetic abnormalities so I am free to use his vials now. Some babies have seizures that are unknown and grow out of them. Anyway, congrats on your new addition. I am tired of Fairfax getting bashed.</p>	

3/20/06	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6464
<p>I think you will find that there will be many *most important* decisions that take place over the course of TTC, childbirth and raising an infant. Choosing a donor is important but you will find much more important things to worry about... Even with some issues I have with Fairfax, I still would use them again. Why? Because I'm very certain that each negative thing that could be said about Fairfax could also be said about EVERY sperm bank. If you queried every customer of every sperm bank, I'm confident you'd find a multitude of reasons for and against using any one bank. And I'm sure there are many dark secrets that have been swept under the rug at MOST Of the sperm banks. If it a very tiny sampling to get a handful of people on this one message board and make this type of decision. There are so many factors to consider. I admit i was disappointed when someone posted that NECC was awful when there are so many people who have been happy with them. I have no affiliation with them but it just seemed like an unfair thing to say. For example, the 2 main reasons I chose Fairfax Cryobank were: #1 after CCB sent me less than adequate specimens and left me discouraged. I then spoke with Fairfax's lab manager for at least 30 minutes on the phone who was able to tell me potential donor's average sperm count and post thaw counts PRIOR to purchasing. Also they were willing to do a hand pick of the highest motility for me. Our donor's average post thaw motility was between 70-80% and I conceived on my 3rd try with this donor. Apparently, they were right about his quality as we've found 20 half sibs now. #2 They do extensive STD testing including a better method of doing the HIV test and a host of other tests that I don't believe are standard everywhere else (or at least not at the time i was purchasing). This was important to me too as I had myself tested for every disease possible-all negative- and wanted reassurance that the highest possible standards of testing were in place to protect my health. So, to recap, there are reasons for AND against using every bank. I think what it comes down to is finding a donor that you feel good about, ensuring that the testing is sufficient for your concerns, and whether they will give you information about a donor's sperm count before purchasing. If i walked into a car dealership, I wouldn't buy a used car without knowing the mileage... why would I buy sperm without knowing the count?</p>	

3/8/06	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6325
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I used Fairfax and recall being asked to have my doctor report the results. I was under the impression that Fairfax only considered pregnancies and births reported by clinics and/or doctors as being reliably attributable to the donor. I don't remember where I heard this.

3/8/06 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6310>

Fairfax sends (or used to send) a blank form to report a live birth along with the cryovial. My RE showed me the form in 2003. He added, however, that many doctors never get around to reporting live births. The RE is not normally the person who delivers the baby... and the birth happens many months after the insemination.... when the happy new Mom is, more often than not, no longer a current client.

3/6/06 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6285>

When I was going through the archives I found CLI from MN and International Cryogenics from MI donors that were on both. CLI and ReproMed Ltd. (Canada) also had the same donors listed. Follas, International Cryogenics, and CLI had some in common, although I figured out these were the ones with letters in front of the donor number CLI usually does not have the letter, I don't think, Follas has F in front of theirs, International Cryogenics uses letters in front of theirs). The connection they all seemed to have was that they all used ReproTech, a freezing place that opened in 1990 that is located at the same address as CLI in MN and is affiliated with them. These entries have all been using the same donor number and are easy to cross-reference at the different labs, the problem would be if the labs would start changing the numbers. Fairfax has on its website a place to click to go to its affiliate (CLI) for more donors, and the same is true about CLI having a link to Fairfax.

3/3/06 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6215>

Fairfax indicated to me when I asked this question that they allow "25 pregnancies per region". I asked how they defined "region" and they indicated that was a population of 800,000 people. So there can be 25 pregnancies per 800,000 in population (and that's just from what is actually reported to them). So, technically there could be an infinite number of kids out there if you do some math. The part I find fascinating (and worrisome) though is that some or all of the offspring will all have offspring (especially if they are as fertile as their donor) and then you're talking of hundreds of grandkids and this 1 man's DNA around until the end of the earth.

2/29/06 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6730>

In February 2004 I sent Fairfax a letter (not an email) and politely requested they buy back a number of vials I had in storage at their facility (my original donor was "unproven" and after more than two years on the market he still had no offspring... by then I knew a good bit more than I had when I'd originally selected him, and had switched to a different donor). I included my doctor's report of the motility rates, etc. Fairfax did fully refund my original purchase price - over \$1600. Not the storage fees, of course, tho... but I didn't think to ask for that.

2/22/06 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6092>

My daughter's half brother's mother and I also noticed discrepancies between our donor's profiles from Fairfax Cryobank. One was the long profile I got nine years ago and the other was a shorter one currently on their website even though he is no longer available. Comparing ages given for his parents' siblings, we determined that there was a four year difference between certain portions of the profiles.

2/18/06 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/1424

I think you are 100% right, I didn't even think about the known vs. unknown donor and number of siblings... I used Fairfax, which (as everyone on this list probably knows) is the sperm bank in question. When I called to inquire about my donor, I asked specifically about whether or not they confirmed the donor's educational

claims. I ended up speaking to the "manager" of customer service. I wanted her to put in writing that yes, this donor was in a doctorate program. It took at least 4 emails for her to put both the donor number, the GPA and the words "verified" and "graduate school" in the same email. It was like PULLING TEETH, but she did it. During the conversation she said that for this donor she had verification - implying that for others she didn't (at over \$400 a vial, I would hope that everyone would ask for some sort of written verification). Which struck me as an odd statement, but I was excited that I had found my donor and verified his stuff. I still have this fear of exaggerated claims and incorrect health histories.

I wonder if there are any active donors on the site who have seen their donor information posted at a the cryobank they used....

2/17/06 | http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/1423

--- In DSR_Discussion, ---- wrote:

"I don't think there was any publicity beyond posts at this site. I don't think they would waste their time retaliating, there is no big win for them in retaliation."

My reply: You may be right (I may have misinterpreted Post #6006 on 2/14/06 on the DSR Group").

Regarding the retaliation....I'm not suggesting that's indeed what they were doing; actually, I guess I was playing devil's advocate and/or thinking out loud. Anyhow, if you think about what they stand to lose in the way of charging extra fees for "known" or "willing to be known" donors if all their donors go public, well enough said. I do believe the DSR poses some sort of a threat to many of the banks, tho, if for no other reason it is exposing (as Donor White said) the number of offspring attributed to certain donors. They might not be keeping count, but the numbers sure are evident at the DSR! The numbers will only serve to validate what many have stated concerning some much needed regulation within the industry.

2/17/06 | http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/1422

I don't think there was any publicity beyond posts at this site. I don't think they would waste their time retaliating, there is no big win for them in retaliation. However, if there are inconsistencies between what the donors said and what the bank reported there could be serious consequences that effect their bottom line. I don't think you could enforce a "no cryobanks lurking" rule. I don't care if they read what is posted. It is afterall a very public forum.

Perhaps they have reason to be nervous about publicity. It's a hot topic in the press - and it's a story that will get bigger. Paper tiger attempts at stopping our stories and our truths (parents/children/donors/siblings) won't work. They may intimidate one or two people, but there are too many families involved.

Of course, chances are this bank has been completely honest with their clients, and are just nervous b/c the way they did business is changing. Perhaps they are worried this donor will start giving away product without their 3rd party participation (doesn't sound probable to me, but who knows what they are thinking). The only thing that really scares me is the very thought that they have lied about health histories of donors.

2/17/06 | http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/1421

---- writes Re: Sperm Bank requests Donor to Remove Info:

My line of thinking may be off the wall, but if it is the sperm bank I'm thinking of, then maybe they are retaliating for the recent exposure they were given by the press on their not pulling a certain donor off the market when notified of potential health issues with offspring. It's quite possible they are targeting the DSR because they think the DSR had something to do with the publicity.

---- response:

I really don't think that sperm banks would want to continue the use of a donor who has possible genetic defects, as it not really in their long term financial interest to do so. I think that they might be more concerned that the DSR site could allow some insight into how they over use their more productive donors. I think that I have seen the information that there have already been up toward 20 matches on the DSR of half-siblings from a single donor, which is likely to represent well less than half of the biological children that he has. I think that closely-held information such as this would make sperm banks a little nervous.

2/3/06	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/5964
<p>I had a negative experience with Fairfax (a far less grave situation than this one), and I've seen felt that they are a very unethical company. I received 10 vials from them, and 9 of the 10 were far below the guaranteed amount. After months of trying to contact Dr. Pool, he refused to offer any sort of reimbursement, and I ended up taking them to small claims court. I met Dr. Pool, and he struck me as kind of sleazy. (I'm wondering if he has a mail-order PHD!) He seemed very adept at making his case as though he had done it many times before. I ended up losing because Fairfax claims that they expect an immediate report of the defective product. (I was at the mercy of the clinic that had to file the report. I'm sure Fairfax counts on these delayed reports.) It was clear to me that the leaders at Fairfax were not ethical people, but it's a scandal that they would try to cover up this issue!</p>	

2/2/06	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/5961
<p>This story speaks volumes. The lack of accountability by the sperm bank industry as a whole is disgraceful. Fairfax is not the only facility who has shown gross neglect and downright dishonesty. I know of donors and recipients who have tried to update important medical information at several other facilities as well, to no avail.</p>	

2/2/06	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/5960
<p>My son was conceived using Fairfax donor ####. When he was diagnosed in July 2004 with a rare platelet disorder I contacted Fairfax. In addition to the platelet disorder (which all the research I can find indicates it is genetic) he has severe eczema, asthma, and food/drug/environmental allergies. All of which I reported to Fairfax. I received a call back from Dr Pool, who said he had spoken with the geneticist who determined my son's conditions were a "fluke." I emailed the other family we have contact with from the DSR, and posted about it here and the DSR discussion list. I find it appalling that they are now dismissing a second sick child from the same donor. Now I cannot help but wonder how many other conditions Fairfax has deemed to be a "fluke" or has chosen to overlook.</p>	

2/2/06	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/5959
<p>I just called Fairfax Cryobank customer service. I asked if offspring from my donor (not ####) had all been healthy or if there had been any health issues. The customer service rep told me no, all children were healthy, adding that when there are sick children born from a specific donor, Fairfax finds puts a hold on all vials and contacts all customers who have purchased vials of that donor. Purely out of curiosity I asked if I could purchase vials from donor ####. She told me that there are over 30 vials of ICI available, and that there is no current investigation into the health of any offspring from donor ####. This put a chill up my spine as I am currently trying to conceive using a Fairfax donor.</p>	

1/31/06	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/5957
<p>I found the two listed siblings he has. One is completely healthy, one is very much not. C was already in the works for testing for some of the issues the other child is suspected of having. Makes me very angry at Fairfax that they knew beforehand and did nothing about it. C is home from the hospital. He's still on a ton of meds and his problems are far from over, but the crisis has passed for now. Most of the tests should be back by Friday. We'll know more then.</p>	

1/27/06	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/5946
<p>My partner and I have a six month old son. Since birth he has had a strange rash that no one could diagnose but no one thought it was anything too bad. He was hospitalized a few days ago and is currently in ICU battling a major systemic infection and his skin is sloughing off. He is VERY SICK. I cannot get any info from Fairfax (even if it exists) and I NEED to contact any siblings to get medical info on them. PLEASE. No one knows what is wrong with my son, but the doctors are convinced that it is a genetic condition, and my</p>	

partner has a VERY large family, all of whom live in the same area, and NO ONE has ever had anything remotely similar before, which makes the doctors believe that this is from the father.

1/25/06 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/1349

I found this discussion interesting because after our 1st was born we found out the donor was a carrier of a rare genetic disease (alpha-1 antitrypsin). After having myself tested we signed a release to get more sperm from the same donor. After reading this exchange I read up again on the disease - alot more information 10 years later. And not all good - for one thing I do not know the exact test performed on my blood - they may have checked my proteins and not done a genetic test. There are also several genotypes, some more serious than others. There is a chance my kids are carriers. We knew we would have to check this out before they have kids. The Alpha-1 Association is sending us tests. Because I need to know the genotype they might have. Apparently the new research says carriers should also guard their lungs - with only one abnormal gene they can be healthy but still not create enough alpha-1 to keep their lungs and liver healthy. No smoking etc. This does not make me feel a need to know the donor - it is invisible for generations. He didn't have a clue. I am glad to know about it and be able to take precautions. It is also scary that just being a carrier can be a risk - if I had that information 9 years ago we would have switched donors for our second child. And I am grateful that Fairfax Cryobank tests for this disease. Not all do, even now. So I have knowledge. However - they did not tell us when they did the tests even though we had reported a live birth. They only told us when we wanted more sperm.

11/15/05 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/5612>

Fairfax is indeed now offering this for prior donors who are now inactive. They sent me a form. You have to pay up front and they will attempt to contact the donor. If they are not successful they refund your money except a nonrefundable \$300 to initiate the search. To me it's well worth the gamble. The contact person for this project at Fairfax is Joy Bader. Drop her email and she'll email the form. For photos, audio interview, and essay etc it's a bit over \$1000 that you have to put up. I'm going to give it a shot. I'd be most interested in hearing from anyone else who tries this and whether or not they are successful.

----- Original Message -----

Their web site says:

"Coming in 2005, Lifetime photos will be available on some of our donors. Donors have provided a series of photos on themselves that cover infancy through adulthood. Donors who have Lifetime photos available will be indicated as such

on the donor search. Lifetime photos ordered on a donor will be mailed only"

So far, I couldn't find any that are in that category though... How do you know they aren't offering this to prior donors??? Did you speak to someone there?

-----Original Message-----

Well, for those of us who have already had children from Fairfax donors and our donors are inactive...we are out of luck . For new people, however, Fairfax is now releasing adult photos of all their active donors. Can you believe it? Fairfax was of no assistance to me in this area-they won't even contact the donor to see if they would want that! 1 1/2 years late!

9/16/05 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/1041

Your question re Fairfax comes at a time when the same question is being posted on within the main Donor Sibling Registry discussion. In summary the answer is Yes. Can-Am Cryo markets sperm from Fairfax. Wendy just found what appears to be three current Fairfax donors listed on Can-Am Cryo. It was also found that if you click the Become a Donor button on Fairfax it lists 6 other locations where you could donate and among the 6 are 3 other cryobanks. So the issue becomes murkier and the issue of greater numbers of half sibs increases.

--- v wrote:

> I also just found out that Fairfax sends some samples to Canada
> ...does this mean my son may have half siblings there also, as in
> the US?

9/14/05	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/1018
<p>I recently asked for our donors age at time of donation, and was refused that,(am trying to narrow down the dates he was an active donor) I also am surprised some parents get the donor's birth date, I would LOVE to have more info, but our donor was "one of the first" from Fairfax, I was told by them,(13 years ago I conceived) and there is not the amount of info on him given to recipients now, like audio, baby pictures, etc. How wonderful!! I also just found out that Fairfax sends some samples to Canada...does this mean my son may have half siblings there also, as in the US? Is there a Canadian web site like donor sibling registry? [from moderator ML: The donorsiblingregistry is worldwide. The difficulty is where clinics have different numbers for the same donor.]</p>	

9/13/05	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/5439
<p>I just joined this list so didn't read the post you mentioned below about cross marketing of sperm, but there is a Canadian bank called Can-Am Cryo Services that uses Fairfax's sperm. I am using a Fairfax donor that my clinic ordered through Can-Am and they've got the same donor number as Fairfax uses but the vials are marked "CAC" for Can-Am Cryo, rather than Fairfax. It's still clear to me that the sperm came from Fairfax, but I suppose it could be confusing.</p>	

8/10/05	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/812
<p>An ad posted by Fairfax in Craigslist Donors in our program can earn \$1,000-\$1,500 per month. Candidates completing all application and testing processes able to receive \$100- \$200 initial incentive. Fairfax Cryobank is a respected facility which provides anonymous donor sperm to physicians and infertile patients throughout the U.S. and internationally. We seek healthy college-educated men between 18-39, who test free of medical and genetic risk. Students and professionals of any ethnic background are encouraged to apply at www.123donate.com. For any problems with this application, or questions, email phillycryo@yahoo.com.</p>	

8/10/05	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/811
<p>Yes, but like someone said before, it's \$200 per "donation." They get 10-14 vials out of every donation. So this is nowhere near half of what they sell it for.</p>	

8/10/05	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/810
<p>The figure of US \$200/donation paid by Fairfax was quoted by the director of a Canadian sperm bank which imports sperm from Fairfax. This took place at meeting in Nov/04 organized by the Cdn federal dept of health which I attended, along with a number of Cdn fertility clinics, to discuss the issue of 'compensation' to donors. (In Mar/04, Canada had passed legislation which banned payment to donors other than reimbursement for exp directly related to the act of donation.)</p>	

8/10/05	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/809
<p>The following is an excerpt from David Plotz's article on his experience as a pretend donor to Fairfax (it is a really well written humorous article with a lot of thoughtful insight): "Amanda held forth enthusiastically and at great length about money. "You will get paid \$50 per usable specimen, for starters. Then you will get \$5 for every vial from the specimen. The average is 10 to 14 vials per specimen. When a vial is released from quarantine after six months, you will get another \$5. So the average payment is \$209 per deposit." She paused. "Now, this is ordinary income, but we don't do withholding. We send checks twice a month, but later we will just give you a check every six months. We will send you a 1099 form at the end of the year." Amanda had managed to take a mysterious and sexual and profound process and make it sound exactly like ... a job. I considered asking her about the 401(k) and dental benefits."</p>	

8/10/05	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/806
<p>The actual average amount Fairfax (and most other US banks pay) is \$209.00 per ejaculate. Men donate (sell their sperm 3-5 times a week). Personally I do think it is immoral that money is the primary reason for sperm donation, but morality of donor aside my concern about banks paying so much money means that if a Sperm Bank has let us say paid out \$30,000 to a donor and then finds out that there is a hereditary problem such as Kidney disease or Fragile X etc, it makes the bank less willing to just throwaway that donor's sperm. The bank still has incentive to sell it. Apparently, this does happen more than most of you probably realize. I know of four instances where serious genetic illnesses were diagnosed in offspring and the Sperm Bank refused to pull the donor from their catalogue and did not reveal the negative information that they had. I am also aware that a Sperm Bank found out that a donor was a convicted serial pedophile yet refused to pull him from their catalogue. The Bank maintain that it is not a relevant reason to refuse a donor even though I am sure that no woman would ever choose a paedophile as a donor if she was aware of the fact. The more the Sperm Banks pay the donor the less they can afford to be honest about divulging medical and other problems. These ethical issues really concern me.</p>	

8/10/05	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/802
<p>WOW. Just received my email reply from Fairfax: "Average is \$200 per production."</p>	

8/10/05	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/794
<p>I know a couple of former donors in Canada who feel the same as you. However, neither Canada nor the UK have had a big commercial sperm banking operation the way the USA has; perhaps that's what accounts for the difference in attitudes? Blood donors in the UK & Canada don't get paid, but in the USA they can be paid. In Nov/04, I was told by the director of a Cdn bank that imports sperm from Fairfax in the USA that Fairfax was paying its donors US \$200/donation, expecting them to donate 3-5 times/wk, for a min of 1 yr. That works out to \$30,000-\$50,000/year - a very substantial 'incentive' to say the least.</p>	

6/29/05	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/4961
<p>Will you also be retaining the donor descriptions with the numbers? If not, no donor from Fairfax/GIVF (and perhaps other places) will ever know they are listed here. They are not given their donor numbers.</p>	

6/7/05	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/4891
<p>My suggestion to you is to go for an identity release donor. There is too much incentive for a sperm bank to lie when it thinks that it won't get found out. I understand that many of the sperm banks are not beyond lying or covering up less than wholesome facts. I have heard worrying things about Fairfax. That with a family solutions donor where the offspring was reported as having a rare platelet disorder (often hereditary in nature) - they carried on using the sperm claiming it must have been a random mutation. Also, with PRS, a friend of mine has a severely autistic daughter from a donor as does someone else who used the same donor - yet PRS claim it is just random coincidence. Figure this, a girl with severe autism only occurs once in 2,000 female births. Don't tell me that the donor has had 4,000 female offspring!</p>	

6/21/05	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/4758
<p>I sent Fairfax an email yesterday inquiring about this release policy but, as the response I just received shows, it is not retroactive and will affect only current or future donors and future sales: "Thank you for the kind words in your email. It is nice to know that you are in agreement with Fairfax's new ID</p>	

release service. However, Fairfax will not be contacting any past donors to request participation. This is because at the time patients purchase an anonymous donor, they do so with the understanding that Fairfax will NEVER release their chosen donor's ID to anyone, and the donor will never receive pregnancy or offspring information. Currently, the majority of our patients require this anonymity, and we cannot breach this. Our ID release donors will enter the program and be sold as ID release only, and patients will be able to choose them based on this fact. Most of our donors will remain anonymous.

Fairfax appreciates your positive reaction and comments, and I am sorry that we cannot accommodate your wishes. Thank you again for the email.

Best wishes,

Joy Bader

Director of Client Services

GIVF Cryobanks"

Apparently, even if a former donor and client consent to the release of personally-identifiable information, it won't make any difference to Fairfax which will STILL not release the information. At least, as it stands now. But I imagine that bringing some pressure on Fairfax, via some kind of email "campaign," won't hurt any.

6/13/05 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/4720>

I don't know about CCB, but Fairfax told me they allow 25 births per 800,000 in population in a region. they had no strict definition for a "region" and said it was like a metropolis, city etc--very vague. That's also 25 births--registered, reported births, and who knows how many more vials in storage. Ours is a very popular, "wait-list" donor (1876), who has been donating for least 3 years. My most conservative estimates on the possible number of siblings blows my mind and the potential, particularly if this donor keeps donating (and why wouldn't he?), is thousands of babies across the country. One maxed geographical area per state is 1250 babies. Who knows how many might not be reported or how many second or third siblings have already been planned and for which vials have been stored.

I still can't believe I didn't really let this sink in before we went through with anonymous sperm donation. I wouldn't trade my son for anything, but I can't imagine what it will be like for him knowing he could have literally thousands of brothers and sisters. If only 1% tell their kids how they were conceived, and only a portion of those find the DSR, I still come up with dozens and dozens....

6/13/05 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/4715>

I used Fairfax to conceive my two youngest sons. Up until the point I called them regarding my son's medical issues, I would have said they were excellent. Now my feelings are more mixed. My four year old has a very rare platelet disorder called Delta Storage Pool Deficiency. Even our new pediatric hematologist was not familiar with it. All indications I can find from internet research and from a hematologist in my home state (who has since passed away) who actually had the condition are that it has a genetic connection, though not much detail is out there. I called Fairfax to let them know about this. There is really no history of a bleeding disorder in my family, and I used an older, Family Solutions donor with not as much medical history, so really there is no way of knowing where exactly the genetics came from. But I felt that they should know - and that others who might use or have used this donor should have the right to know. Apparently Fairfax doesn't feel the same way. I got a call back saying that their geneticist decided it must have been a random mutation and therefore the donor is still out there, nothing will ever be shared with anyone who might choose this donor. I did notify the parents of the one half-sib we have contact with through the DSR. I don't know that there is anything else I can do....aside from post on here in case someone stumbles across it. It is frustrating. In addition to the bleeding disorder he also has asthma, multiple severe food and environmental allergies, severe eczema, and immune issues.

Thankfully I switched donors when I was ttc later and have a healthy 2 year old. I would love more medical info on my 4 year old's donor - I know I won't get it though.

6/13/05 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/4711>

I had no problems with Fairfax. I have 2 children from donor #####. I was lucky that I got pregnant on the 1st try with both children. I went with a Fairfax Family Solutions donor which was less expensive and also had less information. I received a medical profile. Nothing else was available. At the time, it seemed fine. If I had to do

it all over again, I would probably choose a full disclosure donor. My children are still small (9 months and 2 years) but I am sad that I will not be able to provide them with more info. My RE highly recommended Fairfax due to their professionalism and rigorous standards.

6/12/05 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/4710>

I have mixed feelings on Fairfax. There was some issue with our donor (in WE I speak of all the other families that have used this donor). In speaking with Fairfax over the months to try and figure out this, we have all gotten different information from the same person. They have out and out lied to many of us, and we do not really understand why. I guess one can theorize, to cover themselves. I think if this issue with the donor had not come up, I would have nothing but positive things to say about them.

6/12/05 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/4708>

I used Fairfax also. In addition, I also work in OB/GYN as a nurse practitioner and have experience working with other cryobanks (through my patient's use of them). I found Fairfax to be very professional and helpful in a business like way. I chose Fairfax because it was easy to get a lot of information on a variety of donors via their web site. They also had so many to choose from! It was difficult to choose and when I called there was a woman who spoke with me for quite a while helping me with choices and even giving me a few more to consider. She had done the interviews and could give me her impressions of the men, place them on an "attractiveness scale" (according to her--and no one gets a 10) and told me whom they resemble compared to someone famous. Things like who has a nice smile, infectious laugh, and over all congeniality. I also was attracted to Fairfax for their anonymous policy. Somehow it was less scary to go with an anonymous donor. But now that I'm on this side of the fence--with a living breathing boy, whom I think is the best little boy in the whole wide world--I want to give him the universe! Which includes seemingly basic things like being able to tell him who is biological father is. I now realize how important these facts have been in my own life in figuring out who I am. I don't want him to wonder is whole life or have questions in his mind that can never be answered, thanks to my decision to keep his bio dad anonymous. If I had this decision to make over, I would definitely go with a full disclosure donor. Absolutely. Many of the patients I have that chose this option went with a sperm bank called "The Sperm Bank of California." Most of their donors are full disclosure clients and they even have their own service of connecting half siblings that want to meet. You just need to call and inquire. My patients have found them to be all that Fairfax has been to me, BUT more forth coming with information because their policies differ.

I've called Fairfax a few times to ask for updates or any scrap of information on my son's donor dad, but there's nothing. They always maintain their professional stance, but it's SO frustrating because I want to know more. There is not a day that goes by I don't think of our donor and who he might be. Had I known I would feel this way....ah, hind site! I know there are many members on the DSR site that feel this way, as well. I'm very fortunate to have had my son but if I were in your shoes, I'd find a full disclosure donor.

6/11/05 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/4707>

I have had nothing but positive experiences with Fairfax. They have always been professional, very helpful and informative. In fact, I am trying for #2 right now using the same donor.

6/8/05 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/4686>

David Plotz has written something for Slate (as well as his new book) on the process of donating sperm to Fairfax. He went "undercover" and pretended he was interested in being a donor etc. I didn't use Fairfax, but still found this interesting. Here's the link:

<http://www.slate.com/id/2119998/>

4/7/05 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/4436>

I'm new to this site, I just joined a couple of weeks ago...so maybe this is old information to most of you. I am the proud parent of a son created with the help from Fairfax. I had recently sent an email to the cryobank if

there was any updated information or a picture. I also asked if the donors were aware of the labeling the cryobank gave them. They wrote back and stated "Fairfax is an anonymous facility, and the donors are contracted with this in mind, therefore, they are not made aware of their ID numbers." For those of us that hope the donor might come looking for their offspring someday, this makes it much more difficult. If you used Fairfax cryobank, I suggest that you include a pretty good description of the donor from what you know so that a prospective donor that is searching might be able to recognize themselves.

3/25/05 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/4389>

I also used Fairfax and they make it known that they have collection sites all over the country. If you look on their website, I believe that's where I read it. It's not something they keep secret. In fact, now that I think about it, I believe it's under the section for perspective donors.

3/25/05 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/4387>

I don't know if some of you are aware but I found out although Fairfax Cryobank is in Virginia, I was told the donor had donated at another location. The lab where he donated has been closed. I was also told that Fairfax has labs set up all over the states. I had asked which lab did he donate but they wouldn't tell me. I called again and asked what labs had been closed and was told Dayton, Ohio and Bryam College Station.....After calling Fairfax a few times to get more information, I was told that no information would be released to me on this donor.

2/11/05 | http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/688

My three year old has a very rare platelet disorder called Delta Storage Pool Deficiency (a bleeding disorder.) Even our pediatric hematologist was not familiar with it. All indications I can find from internet research and from a hematologist (who has since passed away) who actually had the condition are that it has a genetic connection, though not much detail is out there. I called Fairfax to let them know about this. There is really no history of a bleeding disorder in my family, and I used an older, Family Solutions donor with not as much medical history, so really there is no way of knowing where exactly the genetics came from. But I felt that they should know - and that others who might use or have used this donor should have the right to know. Apparently Fairfax doesn't feel the same way. I got a call back saying that their geneticist decided it must have been a random mutation and therefore the donor is still out there, nothing will ever be shared with anyone who might choose this donor. I did notify the parents of the one half-sib we have contact with through the DSR. I don't know that there is anything else I can do....aside from post on here in case someone stumbles across it. It is frustrating. In addition to the bleeding disorder he also has asthma, food and severe environmental allergies, severe eczema, and a possible auto-immune disorder. Thankfully I switched donors when I was TTC later and have a healthy 20 mo old (and have an older son as well with asthma.) I would love more medical info on my 3 year old's donor - I know I won't get it though.

2/10/05 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/4131>

I believe it's more than likely that many donors from some of the very large banks have 200+ kids. I base this on the fact that I have already been in touch with 10 families who have children with my donor. The sperm bank medical director has said that "30 families" have signed consents forms to be able to use this donor for a second child. (the donor was terminated due to passing on a deadly genetic disease - sadly one of my son's half-sisters passed away and her sister is doing well now but was also sick). For "30 families" to already be considering a second child (knowing the risk that is there), I can only imagine the number that are choosing NOT to sign the consent for another child.

Fairfax allows 25 pregnancies per 800,000 in population. Through second hand info I was told this donor has at least 50 children that are KNOWN but that is the amount that are KNOWN of. Think of how many people don't report the pregnancy or keep in touch with the bank or people giving the sperm to a friend who is TTC, etc. You just never know.

I think if our donor knew he had so many kids he might feel really bad that the sperm bank ALLOWED that. I believe and hope someday there will be a limit to the number of children that can be born from 1 person and

strict guidelines about reporting pregnancies, etc.

1/10/05 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/3918>

I found out that at Fairfax Cryobank they provide different donor id#'s for the donor and recipient. I don't know if this practice is also done at other cryobanks.

11/29/04 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/3814>

My two cents on this....the banks don't want to encourage contact because it could cut into the bottom line. Right now if you want to re-engage a donor in the program it costs the recipient about \$5000. If contact were made, the recipient could just ask the donor to donate again at the same or a different bank so no money would be made by the original bank.

11/28/04 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/3812>

I would also suggest you notify Fairfax Cryobank in WRITING directly to the Medical Director via certified return receipt so there's no question of them receiving notice. They should definitely be informed, although its unlikely that they will notify other families but in case someone inquires with them about a similar problem it should be noted on the donor's file.

In our case, our donor passed on a potentially deadly genetic disease to two children (twins) and sadly one of them passed away at 15 months old. Fairfax decided not to notify all families of this disease and has only notified those who are storing sperm at their facility OR call to find out why the donor has been terminated (no longer listed on the web site). It's unclear if any other kids (we've found over 10 so far) will get this disease because there's no cut and dry definitive test but it's very worrisome. It's even more worrisome that if a child was born ill to a family who wasn't notified about this disease (most families), they could die because swift treatment is essential with this disease and this isn't the kind of disease that would immediately be suspected because it's rare.

The point of all of the above is to make sure Fairfax knows so they can assess whether they feel they need to notify other families OR at least mark the donors file for future inquiries...

11/25/04 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/3783>

I also used an anonymous donor at Fairfax Cryobank. Unlike other cryobanks, Fairfax does not ask the donors if they would mind being found and contacted when a child turns 18. I do think Fairfax used to ask that question but was not a source for getting donor and child together. Now the question is not asked of the donors. I do know, however, that my donor did respond by saying he would not mind being found (info I received from someone else who used his sperm a few years before I did). But now I don't know how to go about it, should the need arise down the road. I'm not sure how other banks work but Fairfax does not tell the donor his donor number. Nor do they tell a donor whether any of his donations were purchased. So how does a Fairfax donor find a bio-child if they are not even aware of the history? I asked Fairfax if donors could be educated about this registry so that they can take it upon themselves to find donor recipients, etc. They said NO.

2/25/04 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/3777>

Have you ever wondered to take legal action toward the fertility clinic and cryobank for not advising us properly? Their only strategy is to bring children into this world with no regard to how child will feel later on. In addition to donor anonymity, my clinic refuses to contact my son's offspring and ask them if they would be interested in meeting. I know my son has several offspring since my fertility doctor told me he fel I should choose another donor because the number of live birth and one which lived nearby later he allowed me to use that same donor since I told him I had plans to move out of state. Since I didn't move out of state, I wonder about that offspring who lives nearby. These children conceived by an anonymous donor have the right to know more about the donor. Let me make it clear my son is NOT looking for a father figure he simply wants to know more about him such as his name, what is he like, how does he look. Doesn't every child have this right?

1/23/04	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/3771
<p>I was inspired by the most recent connection between an "anonymous" donor and his offspring that I wanted to "reach out" to our donor, Fairfax Cryobank donor #### (terminated from the program due to unknowingly passing on a recessive gene to some offspring for familial HLH).</p>	

8/15/03	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/1844
<p>I loved Fairfax Cryobank and love the SIX! children (quads and twins) they gave me, BUT the policies of CCB, Fairfax, etc. are why this board is necessary. I'd much rather list my name with Fairfax using real information and have a bulletin board exclusive to legitimate, verified donors, di parents, and di siblings. Only the cryobanks themselves have enough information to separate their customers from the crazies out there. I don't mind using my real name and address on this board, but I have no guarantee that anyone posting or contacting me is the real McCoy. That said, this board is more than I had ever hoped of getting with the cryobank. And I'm very thankful for those who took the initiative to make it happen. Wish the sperm banks would provide this service. I called Fairfax today to make sure they had all my info, and they told me it was the doctor's responsibility to report births. I insisted they take my info just in case. Sorry about discussing on this loop but the subject is very pertinent to this particular group. I've never asked Fairfax for any info about donor or siblings so have no idea if they are helpful in that regard or not.</p>	

8/15/03	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/1833
<p>I just learned something this morning that maybe most of you know, but I didn't. I was speaking with the Fairfax Client Services Coordinator by e-mail and asked her what their limit is on pregnancies per donor. She said that they use the American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) guidelines, which is 25 pregnancies to 850,000 total population in a given area. Wow! I looked up info from the 2000 census, and there were about 4.5 million people in this metropolitan area back then. So, according to the ASRM guidelines and my math, there could be around 130 siblings from my donor just in this area. Yikes!</p>	

2/10/03	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/400
<p>I have NEVER had other than kind, friendly, forthcoming, respectful and even funny conversations with the reps I've spoken to at my bank (Fairfax). Of course, I never asked them for anything they weren't allowed to provide!! One gal "lost" two of my vials one night (I was in the car on my cell phone, and she simply misheard me and typed a 5 for a 9, an easy mistake) and she and I were both panicking -- it was the last two vials of this donor. As soon as I got home and emailed her the details of my "hold order" (which I had called her to confirm/purchase), she "found" them, right where they always were. She wrote a dreadfully apologetic email back - was very concerned about the whole matter and that she hoped I wasn't upset, etc. I wrote her back to please please not worry - just forget about it - all had ended happily, and that was all I cared about. I've also asked the different gals for their subjective opinions of donors, and they seem pleased to add info such as, "We all really like him, he's kind and funny, always makes us laugh, some of the guys sort of sneak in and out but he always takes time to stop and chat and crack jokes." or "On a scale of Mel Gibson to Woody Allen, he's a ____ (insert name of actor or number here)." and similar tidbits. As I said in my last posting, had I been able to find an ID-release donor I liked, I'd have paid more. As it was, tho, this is was the best I could do, and it took me years to be able to go with a non-ID release donor.</p>	

2/10/03	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/395
<p>Because of Xytex's new price increase on id release donors, I decided to check out Fairfax because I've heard such great things about them. When I called and asked if they even offer id release the woman was almost rude and sounded PROUD to say they were a completely anonymous bank. There is no way I would use Fairfax because of this reason. Looks like I will have to stick with Xytex, but I will write to CCB and Fairfax if it</p>	

will help the cause of this list. Maybe we could also call Xytex and talk to their marketing director (I think his name is Jason?) and tell him that it's not fair to raise their prices by \$100/vial for id release donors!!!!!!!!!!!!!! These places don't care about the lives touched by this process....all they worry about is how much money they will make off of us.

Other Fairfax reports:

[Bad Experiences With Fairfax](#)

[Vials with Low Counts, Trouble with Refunds](#)

[Fairfax Vials with Seriously Low Sperm Counts.](#)