

Manhattan Cryobank

5/2019	Lawsuit and Facebook
<p>I used a donor from MCB. I originally purchased donor sperm in December 2016 and had it shipped to my fertility clinic. Before I did so, I sent messages to someone who had posted on DSR and I asked about any possible medical issues. I waited a month or so before purchasing but never heard back. So went ahead and purchased because prices were going to go up in Jan. In April or May of 2017 the mother messaged me (I was planning IUI for June). I ending up finding out that the donor had at least 20 children. All of the boys had autism and half of the girls did. That some of the children were going through genetic testing to try to figure out common genes possibly causing the issues. Some of the mothers had met the donor and said it was pretty obvious that he too had autism. He had not only donated to MCB but also to other banks and privately. I contacted MCB the same day about the issues to see if there was any way to get a refund. They honored that request even though I had the sperm shipped. They also removed the remaining inventory from their site. I was really surprised they did all that. I chose another donor and continued with IUI. I don't like how they are handling this merger. Families have received no contact from MCB. Maybe they were quick to refund me and take donor off site because they knew they were being shady in other areas? Who knows.</p>	
<p>New Lawsuit against Manhattan Cryobank: "For years, Defendant MCB sold sperm to the public which it knew could contain genetic diseases. Worse, MCB's own chairman of the board recognized the inadequacies of MCB's genetic testing regimen and touted the benefits of a more robust screening technology. Nonetheless, MCB, despite having access to such technology, chose not to use it on sperm donated prior to November 1, 2014, despite agreeing and warranting to its customers that it performed a "complete and thorough screening" for genetic diseases." We have a link to the pdf of the lawsuit at the top of the DSR's Industry page.</p>	

5/2016	Private Email
<p>"My child was diagnosed with Thalassemia. It's a kind of thalassemia that has to come from both mother and father. Manhattan Cryobank says on their website that they test all their donors for Thalassemia. I notified them and they basically said "Sorry. We tested again, and yep, the donor has it." I was wondering if anyone has come to you with a similar issue from this bank. Are they not doing the testing they say they're doing? Or doing the testing poorly? Just this one blood disease has the potential to seriously hurt people."</p>	

6/2015	Private Email- Questions asked to Manhattan Cryobank
<p>Thank you for contacting Manhattan Cryobank. I am happy to answer your questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The 3 month subscription gives you access to the extended donor profile, an audio interview, and childhood photos.2. We offer both short term and long term storage options. You can store for 1 month all the way up to 10 years. You can renew storage at any time.3. Unfortunately, we do not have information on the distance between children conceived from the	

same donor. We do, however, keep a self-reported pregnancy log and will be able to provide you with some information from that upon request.

4. We limit each donor to 25 families. Children conceived from the same donor and mother count as 1 family.

5. The most reported pregnancies from the same donor is 10 pregnancies.

6. We do ship sperm internationally, however, we do not ship to the UK because our sperm donors are not HFEA compliant.

7. Our active donors come to the office for blood work updates at 6 month intervals. We do not preserve donor sperm if it does not meet our standardized requirements set forth by the FDA and NYS DOH.

8. We don't necessarily recommend or discourage the use of the Donor Sibling Registry however, children conceived from ID Disclosure donors have access to the donor's last known contact information and may use this information when accessing the Donor Sibling Registry.

9. **An ID Disclosure Donor is a sperm donor who has consented to having his identity released to children conceived of his specimens when they reach the age of 21.** This donor's identity can only be released to the child upon request. The child must provide proof of ID and a birth certificate to receive contact information. Outreach to the donor, at that point, is left up to the child.

10. Formal letters will be sent out to both clients and clinics if a child conceived from a sperm donor from our bank was born with medical/genetic issues. We will likely email the clients as well.

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via email or phone at [\(212\) 396-2796](tel:2123962796).

Kind regards,

Laura Ilowite, MSW | Donor Coordinator/Patient Relations Specialist