

## PACIFIC REPRODUCTIVE SERVICES (PRS)

11/30/16	DSR Facebook Page
<p>Just found out our donor has a minor genetic defect. Apparently they sent me a letter back in July, but I certainly never received it. It's not life threatening, one child born so far reported it.</p> <p>So, they pulled the donor temporarily from the catalog, but now he is back with a genetic waiver. I think that's a little sketchy, but ok.</p> <p>But what bothers me is this - my wife is trying to get pregnant with the same donor. She's not using my left overs - we bought 6 specifically for her, in her name. They did not send her a letter either, and when I questioned, they said they wouldn't have. Why not? They said only new orders or people already with kids.</p> <p>This is 100% unethical. What if my wife was also a carrier, with a higher level of severity? They brushed it off because the reporting child was a 31%, out of a normal range of 10-30%.</p> <p>And a reply:</p> <p>This is so like PRS to do. We only found out our donor had conceived a child with CF when he suddenly became unavailable *the day before* before my insemination. They said they'd send us a letter about it (since we already had embryos conceived with his sperm, we were considered parents). It's been two years and I'm still waiting for that letter. They definitely have our address because they sent us a note congratulating us on the birth of our baby. Who is a carrier of a CF gene.</p>	

10/22/16	DSR Facebook Page
<p>My son is 19 and last year contacted PRS to begin the process of contacting his "willing to be known" donor. PRS told my son his donor was anonymous and he couldn't contact him. I had all my paperwork that clearly stated otherwise. Upon further investigation, PRS told us the donor had changed his status from "willing to be known" to "anonymous" one month after I conceived. Once PRS figured that out they sent my son all the paperwork to start the process of contacting the donor. But now my son feels like why should he try to contact the donor when the donor clearly doesn't want that now.</p>	

10/22/16	Private Email
<p>"Through your website, we have made contact with many families who used our donor. Our daughter will be 18 next year and was looking forward to getting more information about the donor at that time. We understand from one of the other families that the donor wishes to change his status to anonymous and has refused contact. We were also told that the sperm bank's attorneys are preparing a letter to send to us. Needless to say, we're terribly disappointed and haven't figured out how to break it to our child.</p> <p>Have you heard of this happening with other families? If you have any suggestions, resources or names of attorneys who might be experienced in this area, we'd greatly appreciate your guidance."</p>	

1/25/16	DSR Facebook Page
<p>They said the donor was anonymous and that was made clear to me at the time. Untrue and I still have the</p>	

paperwork to prove it. "Willing to be known? YES"

3/25/15 | DSR Facebook Page

I used PRS and have already identified 20 half-sibs and that's just the ones I know. PRS told some of us they had a limit of 10 and others that they had a limit of 15. They also refused to keep letters and pictures for the donor that I sent them in case he ever called them asking for info. He is a yes donor. We'll see what they do in two years when the oldest kids are of age.

They said the donor was anonymous and that was made clear to me at the time. Untrue and I still have the paperwork to prove it. "Willing to be known? YES"

3/25/15 | Private email

We used a donor through Pacific Reproductive Services. We initially thought we would use PRS again but we connected with another family through DRS who has a child conceived with the same donor and shared with us that they had a bad experience with PRS. So now I am a bit more hesitant and I am looking at other banks to see if perhaps there is a better option for us.

I called PRS today to get a feel for how responsive they are to my questions (one of the issues the other family had was with further communication after their child was born). The woman that I spoke to wasn't forthcoming with information and didn't seem particularly interested in talking to me. In addition to asking if there were any updates to the donor's medical/health status, I asked how many offspring have been reported. I was quite surprised when she told me she couldn't give me that information. She told me, rather cryptically, that she could only answer yes and no questions. So I asked her if there were more than 20 offspring and she said no. I'm wondering if other sperm banks readily provide this information or if this strange yes-or-no questioning is common practice. It felt rather bizarre. I am feeling somewhat hesitant about using this sperm bank again but I'm wondering if the same conversation would happen at all of the other sperm banks.

10/17/11 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14661>

Pacific Reproductive Services actually has videos of interviews with a handful of their donors as well as adult photos.

9/21/11 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14536>

I guess it depends upon the bank. The bank my partner and I used is Pacific Reproductive. They very casually mentioned how many families and how many babies to date when I spoke with them last year. We specifically choose a willing to be known donor. That may be why to conversation was so easy.

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.

3/21/11 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14072>

I used PRS services and have a beautiful, healthy 14 year old alien, er, I mean teenager.

My partner wanted a baby & we decided to go through PRS again. When meeting for our orientation, I didn't mention my history with them, I just wanted her to experience every step of the process new.

Apparently donors now are allowed to assist 20 families! She said they are asked to sign a waiver for at least one person to person contact with their offspring as well. Each offspring.

I then mentioned my history and I asked about the DSR. Did she know about it, have they contacted PRS, what were her thoughts about it. She was quite stand-offish and made it crystal clear that they are NOT affiliated with the DSR, they know it exists, but they don't have any type of relationship with the DSR.

I told her that I am a member of the DSR and have nothing but praise and respect for the website and all the work they (Wendy & Ryan & all else on their team). I mentioned the half sibs of my daughter's as well. She didn't seem at all interested in hearing anything, so I stopped sharing.

Anyway, I just thought I'd post that about the donor being able to assist 20 families, as when I went thru them 15 years ago, it was only 10 families. And the waiver about 1 person to person contact - with each offspring. I wonder how that can be enforced with the number of children that could be. And I was very sad that they didn't LOVE the DSR as much as I do.

2/26/11 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14041>

I had tried to become pregnant by a well-known Scientist, William Naylor. He was a nice guy and there was substantial information sharing regarding proof of his credentials, patents, pics of himself and his kids, etc. He was donating at Pacific Reproductive Services in 2003. His sperm count was not that high (less than 30 million) and so I decided to switch donors after trying for a few months.

10/1/10 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13648>

We used Pacific Repro and our contract specifically prohibits transferring to anyone else without written consent from PRS. It even goes so far to say that embryos created from donor sperm and the eggs of the intended recipient can't be transferred to another person (including same sex partners) without written consent.

I have not tried to transfer vials myself so I don't know if they actually follow the contract, but I imagine that if the vials are stored at their sperm bank they would.

Here's the actual text from the contract:

17. RECIPIENT (or COUPLE) agrees and understands that, pursuant to paragraph number sixteen; semen specimens obtained from her PACIFIC donor are for her personal use only.

With this knowledge:

RECIPIENT (or COUPLE) UNDERSTANDS AND AGREES THAT ANY SPERM SOLD OR DISTRIBUTED TO RECIPIENT (or COUPLE) MAY NOT BE DONATED OR TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER RECIPIENT (OR COUPLE), INCLUDING RECIPIENT'S SEXUALLY INTIMATE PARTNER WITHOUT EXPRESS, WRITTEN CONSENT OF PACIFIC. RECIPIENT (or COUPLE) FURTHER UNDERSTANDS AND AGREES THAT, ANY

USE OF PACIFIC DONOR SPERM WITH PACIFIC'S CONSENT REQUIRES A SEPARATE, SIGNED AND LEGALLY EXECUTED AGREEMENT FOR ANY ADDITIONAL RECIPIENT.

18. RECIPIENT (or COUPLE) understands and agrees that pursuant to paragraph number sixteen, above, any embryos made as a result of a reproductive procedure, including In-vitro fertilization, using sperm of a PACIFIC donor are for her personal use only

With this knowledge:

RECIPIENT (or COUPLE) AGREES THAT ANY EMBRYOS MADE AS A RESULT OF A REPRODUCTIVE PROCEDURE USING SPERM OF A PACIFIC DONOR MAY NOT BE DONATED OR TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER RECIPIENT (OR COUPLE), INCLUDING RECIPIENT'S SEXUALLY INTIMATE PARTNER WITHOUT EXPRESS, WRITTEN CONSENT OF PACIFIC.

2/19/10 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/12871>

Pacific Repro has a "Photo Matching" service. From the website-  
"When you have a short list of PRS donors you are considering, you can submit one or more photos of someone with specific physical characteristics you would like to match to PRS. The donor coordinator will then recommend potential donor matches based on characteristics you rate as most important."

11/25/09 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/12335>

(I am posting this for someone who wishes to remain anonymous. Some families who have used willing-to-be-known donors are nervous about sharing their sperm bank experiences.)

Hello Wendy,

Thanks for this. Very interesting indeed. Clinic practices are shocking I agree. I used a PRS donor and my child has a life-long medical condition. I have heard of at least 2, maybe 3 other children being born with the same condition, also from the same donor.

The thing is, when I called PRS to tell them something was wrong with my child when they were very young, they took months to remove the donor from their listings. They denied knowing I had had a child even though I had a letter from them after I gave birth congratulating me on the event!

I found out about the other "problem" children from a mother who traced me using the DSR. She sent me a copy of a letter PRS sent out to people who had bought the donor's sperm. The letter was about my child and it played down the problems. It also mentioned a second child and a third with "suspected" problems. The thing is, this letter was never sent to me, or to two other women I know who ordered my donor's sperm. They never used the sperm in the end but they could have done, or even sold it on. Certainly I would have liked to know sooner from PRS that my child had half-siblings with the same disorder. Instead I had to hear by chance through another mother.

Perhaps more relevant to your info below: when I was choosing my donor I ordered loads of profiles and many were faxed to me for convenience. I noted at the time that some of the faxes came from the East Coast when I understood my donor was in California. When my vials arrived, my clinic said they were shipped from another clinic, not PRS.

I think these clinics swap sperm like neighbors swap sugar, as if it's of no consequence. I think customers should have a right to know if the donor they choose donates at that clinic - not least because you may have chosen your donor because you have faith in that particular clinic and not the one down the road.

Just my thoughts on this, and info to throw into the pot.

11/24/09 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/12333>

Hi PRS, Repro Lab and Fertility Ctr. of CA Families,

I wanted to forward a letter that I sent to Sherron at PRS last week. I wanted to make sure that you were aware that PRS sells sperm through a Mexican clinic and that it looks like there are several PRS donors on the Mexican clinic's list. The link: <http://www.centrodefertilidad.com/catalogo.html>. There are several different pages of donor lists, so make sure to look at them all.

Given the difficulty that the sperm banking industry has had in keeping track of children born from donors, I

see this as worrisome. Just last month a PRS donor was reported to have passed along a fatal heart condition to many of the 22 (known) offspring he helped to conceive.

We at the DSR believe that it does matter where the sperm you buy originates from. We feel that everyone has the right to know the truth about the origins of their sperm so that they may have a chance of connecting with their half siblings and/or donors. As we have never had anyone from this Mexican clinic register on the DSR, I doubt that these families have any idea that their donors are from PRS. I also doubt that they are adequately counseled and educated about the importance of allowing children the right to be curious and search for half siblings. From what I have been told, donor conception is a closed, secretive business in Mexico. If there were to be a medical issue, or if the children wished to connect with yours as half-siblings, they would most likely be out of luck.

We know that other clinics also ship their sperm around the world. Xytex ships to Canada and Australia, but the clinics they ship to have become much better at advising people about the origins of the sperm they are purchasing. Many people from these clinics are connecting with their half siblings here in the US. Some of these clinics are actually handing out DSR brochures to their recipients. My guess is that no Mexican sperm recipients are walking out of that clinic with a DSR brochure in their hand.

This Mexican clinic was started by Repro Lab and the Fertility Ctr of CA and we found their donors on the list too (these two banks share donors already). I have written both of these labs too, but not received a reply. PRS did reply, "For international sales, we have processes in place for the required reporting of pregnancies and their outcomes as well as informing parents of any medical issues that may arise."

Wendy

> Hi Sherron,

> I just came across the website for the Center of Human Fertility in Mexico and am very surprised to see PRS donors listed in their catalog.

> Do you notify PRS donors that their sperm is being exported to Mexico? Are PRS families aware that there might be unknown matches in other places around the world? Considering that you keep careful tabs on offspring and recipients, are you then also keeping track of the Mexican births?

> How does this tie in with your limitations on the numbers of families to conceive with any one donor? Are there other countries that you export to, that we haven't uncovered yet?

> Apparently Reprolab and The Fertility Center of California also have donors listed in the Mexican catalog. How are DSR members to know who their children are related to if this type of practice takes place? How is urgent medical information to be shared?

> So far, I have identified 8 of the donors on the Mexican list as PRS donors, with a total of 40 families and 72 children on our site who have used these donors. I also see that one of these donors also donated at TSBC.

> I look forward to your reply.

> Wendy

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

2/18/09 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11640>

Re: [DonorSiblingRegistry] Lifetime photos  
How neat! PRS offers baby photos, which we would LOVE to have for our children, but when we asked if they would contact our donor to see if he was interested in sending in a photo they said something to the effect of not contacting donors who are no longer in their program. =(

1/23/09 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11563>

We used PRS in 1991. At the time we were guaranteed (as we asked several times) that the maximum number of families would be 10. Allowing for multiple siblings from some families, we thought we'd probably average out at about 15 kids maximum in our sibling cohort. After some time passed we heard through the grapevine that the number of families was raised from 10 to then 15. In addition our original "willing to be known" donor had been changed to "anonymous" allowing for even more families. This we discovered by finding a sibling from another registry entirely. We now understand our cohort is more likely in the 30's. I am hearing that PRS has moved from 15 up to 25 families. This is big news to us. None of this was public or passed along to users of the bank. We surely are the persons who might (more likely, would absolutely) have a vested interest in the effect of these decisions. While I agree that it is hard to regulate the amount of children from existing families, it is not hard to honor an agreement about the number of families you stipulate to consumers as your policy. These comments are separate from the issue of how I was treated as a client at the time I used their services, which I would agree was respectful. No one profits from these bad decisions but the bank itself. These decisions are made to maximize financial gain for the bank and in turn, minimize any ethical/moral protections for the children, families and donors themselves who use the services. SHAME...

1/22/09 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11553>

It is somewhat impossible for them to control the amount of births. PRS does do a good job of following up. When I had my daughter they called me a year later to see at which time I reported the birth.

1/21/09	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11550">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11550</a>
<p>Re: Maximum family limit - Pacific Reproductive Services (PRS) changes their policy While using PRS, I seem to recall the number of families allowed to a donor increased from 20 to 25. What I was told was that donors who had signed on for 20 would stay at 20, and newer donors would be signed on at 25. Some older donors who agreed to the increase were switched to 25. My contract with PRS says I will report a birth. A couple of times they even called me after they hadn't heard from me, to check. They have to rely on customers reporting pregnancies and births, so there are some limitations to how they can hold the number of families down. If the family number for a particular donor reaches the limit but vials have already been shipped, the bank cannot make a customer NOT use one of those vials. If there are a large number of pregnancies within a short amount of time, that could also put the family number over... In my experience, PRS does a pretty good job of tracking pregnancies, but I think it's easy to see how the number of families could end up being higher than planned for.</p>	

1/19/09	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11544">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11544</a>
<p>Re: Maximum family limit - Pacific Reproductive Services (PRS) changes their policy When I used PRS (in 1994), I was told at that time that they limited donors to 10 families. My donor's profile indicates that he previously was a donor at another bank, and PRS hand wrote on the corner of his profile "checked – 3 pregnancies, 2 live births. We will limit him to 8 live births". I assumed that meant 8 families (not births). The two confirmed pregnancies at that time were from the previous bank.</p>	

1/19/09	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11543">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11543</a>
<p>Re: Maximum family limit - Pacific Reproductive Services (PRS) changes their policy From what I can see, the earlier promise of ten families wasn't upheld by PRS. I see 16 families listed for a PRS donor number on the DSR with kids born between 1999 and 2005. I believe this donor has more than 30 known offspring (so far). I have heard this from several donors- they were promised by the sperm banks that no more than "x" amount of children would be born and they are surprised to see so many offspring on the DSR. The sperm banks don't know how many children are born to any given donor, so I am surprised that they make such promises to donors, and to prospective parents.</p>	

1/19/09	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11542">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11542</a>
<p>It has just come to my attention that PRS has changed their policy on the maximum number of families a donor can have before being sold out. When I entered the program, I was told 10 families was the maximum and now it is 20 families. And apparently they are willing to reopen "soldout" donors with the new limits.</p>	

8/14/08	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11005">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11005</a>
<p>Re: TSBC and PRS Have Sold the Same Donor's Sperm I mentioned one of the cases to Wendy. In that situation the donor first worked with TSBC. A year later he started donating to PRS. On both banks' forms he indicated that he had never donated before. Somehow TSBC became aware of it. When I called to check his availability the agent mentioned that he was now retired from them and since he had also donated at PRS, TSBC had dropped his family limit from 10 to 8. I didn't closely question PRS about him. My impression was that TSBC handled the case pretty well.</p>	

8/13/08	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10996">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10996</a>
<p>It has come to my attention (twice this week) that there are donors who donated at both Pacific Reproductive Services and The Sperm Bank of California. It appears as these two banks did not coordinate donor numbers for the donors (my understanding is that both banks were aware of the donor donating at both places) so people who purchased this donor at either bank will have no idea that they may have biological relatives who</p>	

were conceived from the other sperm bank.

I know of many other donors who have donated at more than one facility (one donated at 17 different places!). This is why the industry must be regulated. Without proper accounting and record keeping on who these donors are and how many places they actually donate and which sperm banks buy and sell sperm to each other (and change the identifying donor numbers), and until we have some sort of mandatory reporting system so that we can accurately count (and limit!) the number of children born from any one donor and update track all medical issues ...we will continue to have the mess that we have.

8/4/08

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10956>

The following have also been added to this list (the registry notes under the facility names are more up to date than this list so be sure to check those headings):

XYTEX AFFILIATES (found in Xytex archives):

Xytex has satellite semen banks in the following locations:

Florida Institute For Reproductive Medicine (904) 399-5620, Jacksonville, Florida

Genesis Fertility Centre (604) 879-3032 Vancouver, British Columbia

North Carolina Center for Reproductive Medicine (919) 233-1680 Cary, North Carolina

Pacific Reproductive Services (415) 487-2288 San Francisco, California

Reproductive Health Associates (813) 572-5300 Clearwater, Florida

Southeastern Fertility Center (803) 881-3900 Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina

University of Connecticut Health Center (860) 679-3460 Farmington, Connecticut

Uptown Pharmacy (214) 871-8711 Dallas, Texas

Xytex Corporation at Syncor (800) 277-3210 Woburn, Massachusetts

5/1/08

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10544>

Out of concern about my own bank, I called Pacific Reproductive Services, and they keep their records forever. The girl who answered the phone verified it with two people to make sure.

2/11/08

[http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/4425](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/4425)

Thanks! I've been glued to my computer for days now doing research. I did see your post previously and was impressed. Based on what I can find, TSBC, PRS and Xytex seem to be the best options for many reasons.

1/28/08

[http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/4373](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/4365](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/4365)

Don't know if it helps, but I wanted to have a "big" bank behind the donor. I know there's a lot of negative buzz in this Group, but my experience was nothing short of spectacular (even with complications). I passed on Pacific Reproductive because I found it to have less of a selection.

12/19/07 Email to Wendy Kramer

We finally e-mailed PRS about my son's Eczema. It seems he is developing Asthma as well, so we thought we should report it. PRS contacted me within 2 days of my e-mail. I was actually quite surprised. One of there nurses called me to gather information. She said that they will be contacting all of the families who used the same donor to inquire about Eczema, allergies, and Asthma. Since we are considering using this donor again, we are very interested to find out if this is a common thread among the offspring. If not, then we can be sure it is an isolated incident, or may have even come from this side of the family, and will be using the same donor for our next child.

Anyway, I just thought you would be interested to know that PRS is conducting an investigation, and that their response time is exceptional.

10/29/07 [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/4103](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/4103)

I would suggest that with an open donor the sperm banks would be less likely to fabricate information since you will almost certainly uncover the truth. I would certainly avoid the NECC. I used them and was told that my donor was willing to have contact but they later reneged on that. They also withdrew "willing to be known" status from at least one other donor. My kids and their cohort have also got lots of health problems and John Rizza a director told me that he was one of their top five ever donors - so go figure! The NECC also do not appear to disclose adverse issues being reported about offspring - I pretended to be making inquiries about my donor years after I and other mothers had reported problems and was told that "there were no notations on the file".

I would recommend PRS since all the reports I have heard about them suggest openness and honesty. I would also consider purchasing excess sperm from someone who has healthy kids already. Just join the DSR and make a search for extra vials. It's easy and a side benefit is getting to peruse the profile for free.

- > Reading messages about people that have felt/know that have been
- > lied to about their donor is making me so nervous. I know there is
- > no way to gurantae anything even if my husband and i were able to
- > conceive, but i would expect some assurance that all the info
- > provided i truthful.

10/22/07 Email to Wendy Kramer

We used PRS as our bank and on the whole, had a positive experience. When our daughter was 11 months old, we received a letter from PRS stating that a half sibling had been born with a condition called tuberous sclerosis which can either be the result of an inherited genetic defect or a spontaneous mutation. The disease may or may not be apparent in babies or toddlers, so Sherron Mills (the director of PRS) encouraged us and the other families created by our donor to get our kids checked out. I was very concerned and contacted a specialist in this disease at Children's Hospital in Boston and brought my daughter in for testing. The specialist in turn contacted Sherron Mills who was interested in knowing about all of the cutting edge research and screening for this condition. Apparently, a subsequent examination of our donor revealed some inconclusive signs that might have been pursued with some invasive, somewhat experimental and very expensive tests. PRS decided to draw the line there assuming that if the donor had indeed been a carrier, more than one child would have been affected. I was all in all pleased with their responsible and timely handling of this situation. At

the time, I had been upset that they would no longer sell vials of sperm from our donor since they were unsure of his role in the disease of the half sibling, but I do appreciate that they were not taking any chances with future offspring (or exposing themselves to future litigation.)

I did have experience with some less than great vials of sperm purchased from PRS after we had finally selected a new donor. Unfortunately, even though they did refund money, I wasted 2 cycles and ran out of insurance coverage with the bad vials.

10/20/07 | Email to Wendy Kramer

Here are some hopefully, not too rambling thoughts about experiences from PRS. Granted my original insemination experiences were in 1992 so things have changed greatly since then. It was a much smaller bank, fewer choices of donors, much less hoopla in terms of how/when and what was available. They were lovely, personable and non clinical. It was originally run out of a small doctor's office before moving to a much larger building and more clinical. Their politics were very left at the time, catering to non traditional families, lesbians and of course, offering the first of two "willing to be known" banks.

Post pregnancy things were different. If I wanted more information, I was always met with polite but obscure answers. I think they wanted to be open about things and treated me respectfully but it was clear that the donor's privacy was first and foremost in their minds. I found answers like, "he's not her father", "tell her he's her donor" to most inquiries and even pained pleading on my part for simple answers that my daughter began asking at 3. Things like specific physical characteristics or other non-threatening identifying things that she was curious to know. A couple of times she wrote little notes or did paintings we tried to pass to him. Then the walls went up.

Later, when I first found sibling #1, through SMC in New York, we discovered that our "willing to be known" donor was also given out as an "unwilling to be known" donor. This has put our two families in an unusual bind to say the least.

For some time in the past years, the bank has included some sort of contract on its website that is used for the donor siblings to sign, along with their parents, guaranteeing anonymity and non disclosure to other families with half siblings that have yet to turn 18. More recently this contract is no longer on the site.

I'm sure there will be more later as time marches on and our children approach us with more interest and needs.

10/19/07 | Email to Wendy Kramer

We have three kids from PRS. We live in NC, so all dealings with PRS were long distance. Prior to getting pregnant by having PRS ship the semen to a fertility clinic near-by, we had them ship it to our home for insemination. One shipment arrived defrosted (and therefore useless to us). PRS staff still wanted us to pay in full and seemed incapable of understanding our frustration. They seemed to think of their business as immune to usual business transaction rules (if you don't deliver the product, we don't pay). I cannot remember for sure, but I think we ended up paying for the shipping and not the semen so that they would continue to work with us. Then we had them ship the rest of our pre-purchased order to the fertility clinic so that we could cease dealing with them altogether. Since then I have only contacted them to notify them of births.

Overall, we are very happy with the final results. However, I recall lots of frustration dealing with them at the time. We have located many siblings on the registry and the donor has contacted us without posting on the site. All of these contacts have been very positive.

10/19/07 | Email to Wendy Kramer

I did my IUI at PRS in Pasadena. From day one I had a wonderful experience. I was very nervous when I went in for the consultation, but I was made very comfortable. All of my questions were answered and I never had any problems. They explained everything to me in detail and I got great service. I normally got my first choice in donors only once I got my second choice. I did IUI four times. I got pregnant the second time but lost the baby and I got pregnant the second time again and now have two year old daughter.

10/19/07 | Email to Wendy Kramer

I used PRS in San Francisco, California many, many years ago 1994-1996 I think. They have always, from day one to present, been very helpful, supportive, kind and caring. I initially went to them as I found them in (what was then) The Lavendar Pages, a gay/lesbian telephone directory, they were the only sperm bank listed. From my first initial consultation with the director Sharon Mills, I knew they were there to help be achieve my dream....a baby.

Throughout my experiences there, from home inseminations, to office inseminations, to thinking of changing donors, thru fertility work and finally 3 IVF attempts, the staff was always attentive to my thoughts, feelings, questions and concerns. My last IVF attempt was Jan 1996 and I had my daughter in Sept 1996. I called to inform them of her birth, they were very happy and asked if I would send a pic of her which I happily did. Anytime I've called for questions or concerns, the staff I spoke with were always helpful and kind. Including the time I called them after I saw the 60 Minutes piece of Wendy & Ryan and the DSR. The woman I spoke with was aware of the DSR, hadn't seen the 60 Minute piece but said they were getting other calls about the DSR and had nothing bad to say about it.

I decided to join the DSR and saw so many other posts for PRS which I mentioned to PRS, the woman seemed happy about it and mentioned she may check it out (the DSR) herself to see what the hype was all about.

So for Pacific Reproductive Services, in San Francisco, California.....I give them two thumbs - WAY UP!

10/15/07 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9102>

Though it's apparently old news- it's new to me. I just read something very disturbing about a PRS donor finding a hidden video camera in one of the donation rooms at PRS. Anyone know what ended up happening with the lawsuit he filed? Was any answer given as to why the camera was there to begin with?

[from moderator ML: This is a link to the case, but I have no idea what happened to it. It's not clear if the camera was transmitting or recording, or if there was any way to trace who might have been able to see the images. For all I know the donor could have placed the camera there himself in order to file a lawsuit: <http://www.thesmokinggun.com/archive/0720061cam1.html> ]

10/14/07 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9099>

As far as PRS goes, that's a different story. I have talked with their director and she knows that there are "lurking" PRS donors on the DSR, as they have communicated this with her. I also know one donor to offspring match that is not posted. (Remember, many people connect without posting. Our numbers are very conservative.) In speaking with this woman, as well as other sperm bank directors, I am trying to impress upon them how important it is for them to make their clients aware of the DSR as a place for mutual consent contact, relieving the banks of liability. Some sperm banks, however, are still afraid of the liability of these connections, even when made on the DSR.

10/2/07 [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/3997](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3997)

I am aware of a PRS donor whose offspring were almost all being diagnosed as autistic by the age of three. Apparently PRS pulled the donor after the second report of autism. That was responsible and definitely the right step. However, despite pulling the donor sperm from distribution there are seven diagnosed autistic children from that donor.

The more being researched about autism the more understanding there is that hereditary issues play the largest part in the cause. Since autism is frequently an absolutely devastating disorder and can play havoc with family life, sperm banks must report it when it occurs!

The costs of autism are huge to the family and to the community. Two of my donor's offspring have autism (not my children) and one of the children has such difficulties and behavioural issues she requires two full time dedicated teachers/staff at school and sixty hours of LNA workers for home. That amounts to a cost of around \$400,000 per year for that individual child. Few physically disabled children are that costly to care for since they tend not to be a danger to themselves or others.

> 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.

9/15/07	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/8924">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/8924</a>
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I also used a willing to be known donor at PRS. And I had a similar experience with PRS. When my daughter was little (she is now 8) I put together a letter and pictures to thank him and to let him have access to it if he ever inquired. I mailed it to PRS. It would enable him to have the information before she reached 18 and contacted him without us having access to him any sooner. I think especially for the willing to be known donors this makes sense. PRS refused to keep it there for me. They sent the whole packet back to me in the mail. I think this is very short-sighted of them. I wish they would change that policy and I know quite a few other PRS families who would agree and may be willing to write a letter to them.

9/15/07	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/8920">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/8920</a>
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My partner and I chose a willing to be known donor from PRS. Prior to choosing our daughter's donor, we spent much time debating back and forth whether or not to use an anon donor, a known donor, or a willing to be known donor. I spent much time agonizing over these issues. Since my daughter's birth, I have thought a lot about her donor. Upon her birth, I felt such overwhelming gratitude. Then my daughter presented with some GI issues & allergies and I called the bank for more information on her donor (who had long since retired). He called right back and answered all of my questions. It was after that that my gratitude took on a new level-- I needed to thank him. I wrote a letter-- asking for nothing-- just expressing my unbelievable gratitude for his generosity. When I called the bank and asked them to forward my letter (I even said I would mail it to them in an unsealed envelope so that they could judge the appropriateness of it) they said, "while very nice, we will not forward as we never let our donors know when children have been conceived."

What the hell are they talking about? Isn't this the same bank that called this man at home to ask additional questions regarding his background? He stopped donating over 2 yrs ago- don't they assume he'll know they're calling re a child?

Whatever. My point is, we're talking about the lives of human beings. Yes, whoever this man is- he deserves his privacy and my utmost respect (which he's got). However, (and perhaps it's because he called back) I'd like to think that he would have appreciated my letter-- which asked for nothing whatsoever. I simply said, "thank you."

9/14/07	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/8915">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/8915</a>
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Regarding availability of open/willing to be known vs. anonymous donors: My experience is very recent. I began working with a fertility clinic in February and am now eight weeks pregnant. The fertility clinic is large and reputable, and I trusted their choice of sperm banks. They work with four, including California Cryobank (CCB), Cryobiology, Cryogenic Labs, and Pacific Reproductive Services. Of these, CCB had a substantial number of open donors - maybe 25% of their large inventory. Even so, I had to get permission from the clinic to waive a medical concern - CMV status - to allow me to find a donor who was open and of the race that I wanted. Had my clinic not been willing to allow me to use a CMV-positive donor (I am negative), I would have been forced to choose between the donor's race and whether he was willing to be known. Race and openness are both choices that have a potentially huge impact on a child's life. It would have been very difficult to choose between the two. And CCB is one of the largest sperm banks around, with one of the largest inventories.

As for the other three banks, Cryobiology had just eight open donors. This was not indicated in their catalogue; I had to e-mail them to find out. Cryogenic, like CCB, had a substantial number of open donors, as did Pacific Reproductive Services, and I imagine that my selection at those banks would have been similar to my options at CCB. About 80% of the population is CMV positive, so if my fertility clinic had been unwilling to allow me to use a CMV+ donor, I would probably have been similarly limited in my donor options at those banks, as I would have been at CCB.

I was lucky enough to have a fair selection of open donors, though there were significant constraints within that selection. In addition, open donor programs appeared to be new, and one bank didn't have much of a program to speak of. I live in a large, liberal metropolitan area and had my choice of several fertility clinics, two of which are quite large. The clinic that I did work with used four sperm banks, so I had a range of options there as well.

However, if I lived in a smaller, more conservative city, my options for fertility clinics, and thus sperm banks, might have been much more limited. And if I were doing this five or 10 years ago, my options might have been more limited still.

7/6/07 [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/3483](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3483)

I would definitely recommend Pacific Reproductive services even though I did not get pregnant through them. I feel they are quite thorough and they are the reason I found out I was not immune to Measles, mumps and reubella. I had to get a complete checkup before using their services and that is one of the tests they do. I was revaccinated and had to sign something saying I would wait six months to become pregnant. I used ccb later because I went through Kaiser. They may have saved my child from a horrible birth defect. I did two home inseminations through PRS and they did not take.

7/21/06 [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/2291](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/2291)

Man Sues Over Sperm Bank Hidden Camera Claim: Surveillance device was hidden in ceiling of "donation room"

JULY 20--Claiming that he found a video camera hidden in the ceiling of a sperm bank's "donation room," a Los Angeles man is suing the firm for negligence and emotional distress. Ken Rigberg, 27, charges that he discovered the pinhole camera during a June 2005 visit to Pasadena's Pacific Reproductive Services. According to Rigberg's Los Angeles Superior Court complaint, a copy of which you'll find below, he "noticed an unusual hole in the ceiling tile" of a private donation room, where he had just finished masturbating into a cup. Upon inspection, Rigberg realized that "there was a hidden surveillance camera on top of the ceiling tile, with the lens of the camera positioned to...capture the activity within the private donor room." Rigberg is described in the lawsuit as a "regular sperm donor" who went to Pacific "to provide an honorable and essential benefit to his community." According to Pacific's web site, it pays men \$100 per donation, and that most donors contribute "once or twice weekly over a minimum one-year period or 65 donations." Rigberg's attorney, S. Edmond El Dabe, provided TSG with a police photograph of the seized ceiling cam equipment, an image he received from Pacific's insurance carrier. El Dabe said Pasadena cops have been unable to determine who placed the video camera in the donation room ceiling. The lawsuit, which was filed in late-May and does not specify monetary damages, asserts that Rigberg has, among other things, suffered fear, shame, humiliation, and chagrin as a result of discovering the surveillance gadget. An "emotionally traumatized" Rigberg, who had been visiting Pacific for more than a year, "no longer donates sperm, as he fears future illegal surveillance of his private acts," the complaint notes.  
<http://www.thesmokinggun.com/archive/0720061cam1.html>

6/16/06 [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/2224](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/2224)

.... my group from Pacific Reproductive Services now numbers 32 children....

5/22/06 [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/2063](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/2063)

In the US there may be counseling or not... When I was using Pacific reproductive services I had to have a full checkup. They even tested to see if I was vaccinated or Measles mumps and rubella. I was not immune so I had to sign a paper saying I would not get pregnant for six months and they gave me a vaccine. They told me if you were vaccinated between 68 and 70 in the US you would probably have to be re vaccinated.

3/5/06 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6257>

Yes, we should definitely push the banks to ask questions about developmental/neurological problems. My son showed up with Tourette's as well as some executive functioning problems, and our daughter now has some tics too. We contacted our bank, and they sent out this information to all the parents of our donor's offspring, and asked if anyone else had seen this in their children. We got a few interesting responses, but the bank seemed very interested and helpful. They seemed concerned, obviously. This was Pacific Reproductive

Services in California. But I am completely in agreement that the banks should be asking questions about learning disorders, possibly whether the donors are aware of a different "learning style", whether they had any academic/developmental interventions as kids. Maybe the banks feel like there are already so many things they are screening for, that they'd have no donors if they got into this.

2/26/06 [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/1446](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/1446)

There is a bank called Pacific Reproductive Services in San Francisco that primarily deals with Lesbians. It is a great bank and I used it for two inseminations which did not work. I did home insemination. Eventually I used CCB. And have a beautiful daughter and 3 beautiful matches thanks to Wendy.

12/2/05 [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/1195](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/1195)

The information about PRS not treating the issue of autism comes from my personal knowledge of a close friend of mine whose daughter was conceived from a PRS donor and is severely autistic and who found out that a second offspring is also autistic. Apparently, PRS is claiming that autism is not known to have a genetic basis. Many studies prove them wrong.

12/1/05 [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/1186](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/1186)

Full disclosure is helpful for both recipients and donors. Wouldn't you want to know both as a recipient and donor that 20% (2 out of 10) of children already born from a donor are severely autistic. But PRS thinks that it is irrelevant. They would not notify recipients or the donor of such information. At least one of the affected children is a girl. Statistically less than one in 2,000 girls is severely autistic. I would certainly not want to use a donor when 20% of his offspring had autism. I would not be surprised if the donor also would not want to take the chance on natural conception.

The banks do none of us favours they are in it for the hard cash. They will be as unscrupulous as they can get away with!

10/30/05 [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/1135](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/1135)

I myself thought my bank, PRS was the cat's meow, as it was their help in getting me my precious son, but it was only AFTER I contacted them for more info, having met some sibs, that I realized how dishonest they had been.

8/10/05 [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/798](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/798)

Whoa! You know, every time I read something about CCB, I am more convinced that place should be shut down. PRS and NECC uses mature men for this. This is just too amazing. Though I remember in college ran ads for this and egg donors, I was going to be an egg donor but actually wound up meeting a prospective couple and that encounter changed my thoughts on a host of things, including even my views on abortion. I can't get over the fact that another woman would be raising my child out there. It was powerful.

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

From: Wendy

Yes, often these men ARE 20 year olds. I am aware of many men who were 19 or 20 when they donated, including our own donor. These men were from the "best" and most reputable sperm banks, ours was CCB. The fee was nowhere near \$200/donation. More like \$35.00.

6/7/05 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/4891>

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!

6/5/05 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/4667>

I chose a "willing to be known" donor (from PRS). When he renewed his contract several years later, he chose to be anonymous. He is still willing to be known to the children conceived during his first contract, but is an anonymous donor for the new families and the children conceived during his second contract.

2/11/05 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/4134>

I've read all the recent messages about donors possibly passing on genetic problems and how the sperm banks have reacted, with great interest. I just wanted to add my story, and put out another plea for contact from other parents of children by my PRS donor, especially the mother who told PRS that she too has a child diagnosed with the same disorder.

My toddler daughter has a lifelong developmental abnormality which is strongly believed to have come from her donor. It is not a condition that can be identified by any genetic or antenatal test as yet, but it is widely thought to be an inheritable, genetic condition. PRS have been very kind and understanding in their dealings with me. Quite rightly, they have also actively sought details and have passed on the frightening news to other couples/singles who used the same donor - hence the other mother getting in touch with them. The PRS geneticist has reassessed my donor, and I see that he is no longer available - although that may be a coincidence since he left their programme a while ago.

Obviously I'm pleased that PRS have reacted responsibly to the news about my daughter, who I believe is the donor's first offspring (by PRS anyway!). However, it is very frustrating that I can't share my experiences with the other mother of the child similarly affected. PRS say they cannot send my contact details to the other mother for reasons of confidentiality. But I desperately need to speak to/contact her for the wellbeing of my daughter.

I live in the UK. It is very difficult to get a written diagnosis for my daughter's condition in the UK because of the chronic funding problems in the National Health Service. Written diagnoses open the door to free treatment and "statementing" (a legal obligation on the State to pay for special needs education). There is a national directive from the UK government to cut down on statementing. It's dressed up as promoting "inclusion" in mainstream schools of children with special needs, to create a more tolerant society in the future, but the real reason is to save money. So, without a written diagnosis, my daughter has no access to free treatment and is heading towards "normal" school if I leave her in the State system, even though at barely three years, and placed at my expense in a special needs nursery with extra therapies besides, she is obviously struggling.

The thing is, there is an early learning intervention technique routinely used in the US that I think my daughter needs, but I can't trial it here without selling my house!! I'm single and was successfully self-employed until all my time had to be switched to caring for my daughter's special needs. I'm very happy to trade down our home if we have to, but obviously before taking such a big step I need to be sure that the treatment would be suitable for my daughter. I strongly believe that the other affected child in the US is having this treatment. I desperately need to know what similarities there may be between my daughter and her half sibling, and if this treatment is working for the other toddler or not.

10/30/04 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/3657>

When my daughter who is now 5.5 years old was approximately 10 months old, I was contacted by Pacific Reproductive Services to be informed that an infant half sibling had a disorder that could possibly have been inherited from the donor. They encouraged me to have my child checked out by her pediatrician to see if any signs or symptoms of the disease were apparent. I'm not sure whether or not they were legally required to contact me, but when I tried to purchase more vials from this donor 2 years later, I was told that although there was no conclusive evidence that the donor had passed along a hereditary problem to the afflicted infant, the

sperm bank had "retired" our donor.

I later made contact with 2 other half siblings through this website who were also contacted by PRS. I feel that the sperm banks should be accountable for medical information they receive about their donors subsequently, and although I was deeply disturbed by the information received, I would expect that this level of responsibility should be universal.

8/21/03

[http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/311](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/311)

Over a year ago, when my partner and I decided to have children, obviously we either had to use a known donor or go with a sperm bank. We chose the sperm bank because I never wanted the donor to come back and say, "I know I was only donating, but now that I see the baby I want to be a father". That terrifies me!! My partner and I are going to be mom and mom. We are raising the child together and do not want input from a 3rd party. Anyway, when starting my research on sperm banks, I found out that Xytex had adult photos of their donors. After doing more research it appeared that they were the ONLY bank to have adult photos, so my decision was made. I was only going to use a donor with a photo because suddenly I couldn't imagine NOT knowing what this person looked like!! As time has passed and we have been trying to conceive, that still holds true for me, but now I realize that the photo is not so much for me....but for my child. I realized very quickly into our TTC journey that I wanted to do everything possible for this child if they wanted to know this donor someday. I knew there were "yes" donors from TSBC and after some research realized that PRS also had the open identity policy, but neither of them had the photo option. We finally picked a donor with an adult photo, baby photo, and a guy who participated in the open identity program. My thoughts were that in 18 years the child would at least know his full name, have identifying information, and a last known address (but that will probably be useless in 18 years!). I put myself in my child's shoes and realized that this was not my decision to make, but it was the child's decision!! Heck, my kid may never even ask or care, but if he/she does I can at least sit them down and say "This is him and when you are 18 we will call the sperm bank and get his name". Then...if the child wants to know more and possibly locate him, we can go from there. At least we have the info. And can choose to do whatever we want with it.