

## THE SPERM BANK OF CALIFORNIA (TSBC)

1/3/17	Email to Wendy Kramer
<p>I just wanted to give you feedback on TSBC -- I've been looking at their donors, but many of them have biographies that are more than a decade old and have not been updated. When I asked a TSBC representative why they haven't reached out to the donor for updates on his life and more importantly his family health history, the response was that donors are hard to locate. Needless to say that's a disheartening and strange message, given social media and the internet -- most people are actually easy to locate these days</p>	

9/6/12	Email to Alexis Rebane
<p>I used the Sperm Bank of California in 2010 and had a an excellent experience. I called frequently with questions regarding the donors because I couldn't decide between a few donors. Even now I call on occasion to find out how many children have been born from my donor and they are always pleasant and answer my questions. I am really glad that I used this bank.</p>	

2/20/12	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14944">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14944</a>
<p>TSBC is also the only sperm bank operating on a NON-profit basis. It has a community Board of Directors as well as a Medical Advisory Committee which provide assistance with legal, medical, and ethical policy issues, &amp; a Research Director (Joanna Scheib, PhD) who regularly publishes articles in peer-reviewed journals &amp; speaks at medical &amp; patient conferences.</p>	

2/20/12	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14943">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14943</a>
<p>I used sperm bank of California and have to say I have no regrets. Small family limits (10 families per donor) friendly staff, donor baby pics (some) interviews and all the tests.</p>	

2/20/12	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14942">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14942</a>
<p>Of course there's no perfect banks but I think what the person originally posting the question was trying to get at is whether there's any that stand head and shoulders above the rest and I would recommend Sperm Bank of California as one of those banks. They are a feminist sperm bank and pioneered open identity and offering sperm to single women and lesbians before other banks would. That alone speaks volumes for a sperm bank. They also limit families to 10 per donor and actively encourage half sibs to make contact with one another. I'm very happy I chose TSBC in hindsight - good luck!</p>	

2/3/12	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14895">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14895</a>
<p>I used The Sperm Bank of California, and I strongly recommend them. They have a firm limit of 10 families per donor. My donor admitted to 7 others when he went to them, so they limited him to only 3 more. When my son inherited a genetic defect, they were very responsible about addressing the issue and notifying other families. My donor also used PRS and had 26 more children there. He did not tell them about his other children (we need a national registry). The director, Sherron Mills, was also very responsive when told of the aortic defect. She notified all purchasers of the donor's sperm, resulting in 7 more births being reported. Both Sherron and Alice Ruby at TSBC have been very responsive to all of my emails and questions.</p>	

2/3/12	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14893">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14893</a>
<p>I had a great experience with TSBCA. Friendly staff, low family limits. I would refer my friends to them.</p>	

9/20/11	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14531">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14531</a>
TSBC has a strict limit of 10 FAMILIES per donor. Our donor went over, and we have 13 but more on the way.	
9/20/11	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14530">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14530</a>
I used TSBC which sticks to 10 births per donor, but then my donor just went to another bank and had 26 more children. A large number of donors use more than one facility, making keeping numbers down more difficult. My donor did not divulge his previous donations; thus he was allowed to continue creating more children. We need a nationwide donor database so when a donor goes to a new bank, there will be a record of his previous offspring.	
6/2/11	Full article: <a href="http://www.biopoliticaltimes.org/article.php?id=5740">http://www.biopoliticaltimes.org/article.php?id=5740</a>
<p><b>The Pratten ruling: An anonymous sperm provider's son explains why it matters</b>  <b>By Barry Stevens. Biopolitical Times. June 2/11</b></p> <p>For decades, the Sperm Bank of California has been offering sperm vendors the choice to be anonymous or identifiable to their offspring when the latter reach age 18. Currently, 80% of their sperm providers choose to make their identities available to their offspring.</p>	
2/2/11	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13933">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13933</a>
Wow, I used a known donor at SBCA and he was over his limit of 10 the last time I called and inquired. They limit their known donors (ID release) to 10 families. But there are actually 13. And those 13 have access to his other vials, so ultimately could have quite a few more half siblings in the future.	
10/2/10	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13652">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13652</a>
When the sperm bank I used--The Sperm Bank of California--was notified that our donor had a genetic defect of the aortic root, they notified all the recipients of the donor's sperm they could locate. The trouble is, not everyone reports their births, and not everyone keeps their contact information current. It is important that everyone do so--these kids who cannot be notified could drop dead of an aortic dissection and no one would know why! Please keep in touch with your sperm bank just in case you need to be notified.	
3/1/10	Full article: <a href="http://www.slate.com/id/2243743/pagenum/all/#add-comment">http://www.slate.com/id/2243743/pagenum/all/#add-comment</a>
<p>Are Sperm Donors Really Anonymous Anymore?  DNA testing makes them easy to trace.  By Rachel Lehmann-Haupt</p> <p>...</p> <p>This new science is now forcing sperm banks to reconsider their policies and the education of their donors. "At this point, it's hard to know how much it means, since the science is changing so quickly and we don't know how many are actually looking for their donor," says Alice Ruby, the director of the Sperm Bank of California, the only not-for-profit sperm bank in Berkeley, Calif. Ruby, who was the first to spearhead the idea of the identity-release donor, says that her bank's research has shown that the majority of families are not interested in finding their sperm donors. In 2008, the bank presented a research study at the conference of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine that found that only about 30 percent of families in their first class of identity-release donors have come looking for their donors. "We now tell donors that we'll protect their identity, but that we cannot promise that future medical or technological advances will not make it possible for someone to identify who they are," she adds.</p>	
2/18/10	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/12840">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/12840</a>
It's funny that the TSBC has come up in discussions... I got an email from them yesterday that a family that used the same donor signed up for the family contact list.	

We've been on the list for almost two years (our daughter is 23 months), and this will be our first contact with a donor sibling family.

2/18/10 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/12832>

Actually, TSBC is the most ethical sperm bank there is out there. They have been a research facility since day one, pioneered ID release when most sperm banks would have nothing to do with it, actually follow up on their donors and the families/offspring, limit their donors to 10 families etc etc. I could go on. If you want to argue that sperm banks aren't interested in offspring I'd agree with you about 99%. But with TSBC I'd say you're wrong. They had no particular interest in the results of their research. In fact, given that they introduced ID release and have been huge proponents of it, you'd think they'd want MORE donor offspring to be interested in their donors. For many years, when other banks ignored ID release, it was TSBC's trademark and selling point!

2/17/10 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/12831>

AFAIK, other than the Sperm Bank of California (which pioneered the concept of ID release approx 25 yrs ago) & Rainbow Flag Health Services (whose website says they've had this option since 1995), other USA sperm banks only began offering identity release donors relatively recently; before than all their donors were anonymous.

In Canada (where I am), the only Canadian sperm bank which recruits locally offers only anonymous donors, altho the 2 others (which import from USA) offer some ID release, as well as anonym, donors. However, patients at most fertility clinics who are using donor sperm (either in DI or IVF), or doing insems at their ob/gyns office:

- \* are not told ID release is an option

- \* do not receive any form of counseling, & when they do, they are not always encouraged to use an ID release donor.

What this all adds up to is that many would-be parents don't have as much info as they need to make truly informed choices.

2/17/10 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/12829>

FYI--the Sperm Bank of California has ID release and non-release donors, about 50:50. All have the right to ASK to be contacted with the donor at 18, but only the ID release donors promise to do so.

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

10/9/09 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/12191>

I second The Sperm Bank of California recommendation. I had general information questions about the process from a donor's point of view. Though I had no prior relationship with them (the facility I was associated with was out of business), Alice from TSBC kindly answered all my questions. This is a good ethical provider.

10/9/09 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/12190>

As I have mentioned before in this group, TSBC:

\* is the only non-profit sperm bank in the USA (AFAIK)

\* pioneered the whole concept of identity-release donors 25 yrs ago because they recognized the needs & rights of offspring

\* has conducted a lot of research over the years on outcomes for offspring, families & donors

\* seems to be ethical & responsible

TSBC has come to Canada to speak at several of our seminars even tho they had:

\* to pay their own travel expenses

\* no prospect of increased sales (since they do not export into Canada)

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

8/14/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11005>

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.

8/13/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11000>

Re: [DonorSiblingRegistry] TSBC and PRS Have Sold the Same Donor's Sperm

"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)"

Wendy, I suppose that is possible but when I was a donor at TSBC I am pretty sure that one of screening questions was whether the subject was a donor previously or currently at another facility. The impression I got was that this would rule out a potential donor. Also TSBC has a goal of limiting the number of donor offspring from one donor to no more than ten so I would think knowingly allowing a donor who has donated for another facility would be in violation of this policy. (From feedback I have gotten from the donor parents and from TSBC they did adhere to this policy, at least for me...)

8/13/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10996>

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

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/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:  
-Sperm Bank of Northern California or Northern California Sperm Bank (located in Oakland) is now known as the Sperm Bank of California now located in Berkley.

2/26/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10171>

The sperm bank took several photographs of me during the time I was donating. To the best of my knowledge these were not to be sold (nor did I receive compensation..) but to be provided to donor offspring upon request after they turned 18. After I stopped donating I sent the sperm bank a few photos of myself, one at age 5 and one when I was in my early 20s.  
I doubt TSBC will charge for the photos, not sure how I would feel if someone had to pay for a photograph where in one case I looked like Rasputin and in another I favored Borat.

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/4372](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/4372)

I used The Sperm Bank of California and I would use them again with no reservations. My son is 15 Years old. The bank still keeps in touch with me, is very helpful when I ask them questions such as how many children did the donor have and what are there sexes.  
We also found and have contact with my son's half brother through there Sibling program--they will match siblings from same donor if both sides have contacted the sperm bank.  
They are also a non-profit sperm bank and does a lot of research on this whole donor/ child/ family situations with a PhD researcher (Dr. Joanna Scheib)  
<<http://www.thespermbankofca.org/pages/page.php?pageid=2#scheib>>  
-you can read their research on their website.  
<http://www.thespermbankofca.org/pages/page.php?pageid=9>  
When I was looking for a donor some 16 years ago, they were the only sperm bank in the world that offered Identity Release. If you want to contact me personally for more information that would be great. The Sperm Bank of California is in it for the long haul and will support you and your child.

10/29/07 Email to Wendy Kramer

Here is my input on a great sperm bank, The Sperm Bank Of California. Besides their obvious tag line, "The Sperm Bank of California (TSBC),is the first and only sperm bank in the United States to operate as a nonprofit organization. TSBC developed the first Identity-Release program in the world; this allows adult children conceived by donor insemination (DI) to learn their donor's identity. TSBC conducts research on many aspects of DI in order to enhance societal acceptance of alternative family building and to inform and challenge industry practices."  
Supposedly they really do limit a donor to 10 families. Additionally they try to maintain a sibling reserve of sperm for families that already have a child from a specific donor.

We wish we lived near TSBC and could attend the focus groups/counseling they provide their clients/community.

TSBC, have always been very helpful to us before and after the birth of our 2 daughters.

Incidentally, our daughters were born with a mild birth defect, VUR. VUR is when all the urine doesn't empty from the bladder and some returns to the kidneys. When children from another family were diagnosed with VUR the sperm bank sent us a letter informing us of the other families situation and urged us to get our children tested for VUR.

They contacted the donor to follow up on this health issues and he rechecked with his mother, father, sister regarding VUR. None of them are known to have ever had it, if left untreated you are in for urinary tract infections as a child and possible kidney damage. As children become adults most will out grow this condition. The donor was genuinely concerned about the VUR issue coming up in five of the eight children. It prompted him to make contact with another family and us via the DSR. He seems like a nice guy, we have only e-mailed, the other family has meet him twice.

To make this long story short, we would still use TSBC. They have always been upfront and helpful in their dealings. Our donor is the first they ever had that passed on this genetic problem. There was no way they could test for it, but when it came up they and the donor were concerned about the children's health.

On the DSR I read about banks withholding information and donors' dishonesty with their health. I am so grateful that was not our situation. I think TSBC must be one of the few, if not the only bank with integrity.

10/29/07 | [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/4104](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/4104)

I encourage you to check out The Sperm Bank of California, <http://www.thespermbankofca.org>  
TSBC is the ONLY sperm bank in the USA which:

- \* operates on a not-for-profit basis

- \* regularly conducts research with their donors, donor-conceived families & adult offspring to determine ways to improve how they are doing things.

Moreover, they were the first -- and for 15+ years, the only -- USA sperm bank to offer identity-release donors.

This was a very expensive undertaking for a small, non-profit sperm bank since running an ID release donor program is much more complicated & expensive to operate than an anonymous one (because of the need to maintain records, provide counseling, stay in touch with donors, etc).

However, they made the decision to do so because they understand that it is in the best interests of children conceived via DI to be able to decide -- for themselves once they are adults -- how much they want to know about their donor, and whether they want to make contact with him & with half-siblings conceived through the same donor.

Most other sperm banks deny adult offspring the right to make these decisions for themselves by either:

- \* using only anonymous donors OR

- \* providing 'willing-to-be-asked donors' which (in my view) is false advertising designed to lull prospective parents into thinking the donor may be willing to have some sort of contact, however minimal, when in fact, there is no guarantee that he will do so at all when asked 18+ yrs hence.

FYI: Several times over the yrs, staff from TSBC have come to Toronto (where we are located) to speak about their ID release program & research at conferences our organization has sponsored.

They done this even tho:

- \* they had to pay all their own travel expenses plus staff salaries (as a small charity on a very limited, we cannot reimburse speaker expenses, or even pay them an honorarium)

- \* TSBC does not export sperm into Canada, so there was no prospect of recouping their expenses from business they might attract from patients/professionals attending our conferences.

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.]

10/1/07 | [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/3991](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3991)

I used "The Sperm Bank" in Northern California. I am more than happy with them. Even though my son is 14 years old they still will answer any question I have (such as how many children were conceived via his donor and what is their sex).

They were the first sperm bank to offer the donor release option and we met my son's half brother through their sibling program. They are also a non-profit sperm bank and support research on the topic of donor insemination. Their website is: <http://www.thespermbankofca.org/>

7/30/07 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/8729>

The Sperm Bank Of California, TSBC, has their own registry. If you want to become notified of other children born from your donor you need to mail them a written request (not an e-mail) for such notification. When and if another family from your donor registers with them they send (not e-mail) each of you the contact information, and your requests stay on file with them "waiting" for other families who might want contact. (It has worked for us!)

I must add that from reading many posts here I feel very lucky that we choose our donor from TSBC. They have always been polite and helpful to us before and after the birth of our children.

10/19/06 | [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/2687](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/2687)

I'll have to throw kudos in for Xytex, even though we never used them and never will. I've talked to every major sperm bank in the US in the last 2 months, often to the directors. At length discussions, taking up to an hour in some cases. And Xytex came across completely professional and caring and I believe that they would definitely pull a donor if a situation arose where is needed to be done. The reason we won't use Xytex is because they will not ship to home and we have no desire to have a doctor involved, and because they are unreasonably expensive, to the point where I am a little put off by it. Same with TSBC. But I wouldn't have any qualms about Xytex from a health standpoint.

9/9/06 | [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/2547](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/2547)

I just contacted the sperm bank I used (my son is almost 14 years old) and asked for info. about the number of siblings he has from the donor, and the gender of them. Within a week I had a reply. I used TSBC. The RE I used, did not use this sperm bank, but had no problem with using it if I took care of the ordering, shipping, and payment.

My son is an only child, and we have met one of his siblings about 3 years ago--the sperm bank has a "sibling" program and I had contacted them telling them I wished to be contacted if other parents who used the same donor wanted to be contacted. My letter was filed, and a year latter I was informed that there was a "match"--another parent, with a child from the same donor wanted contact.

9/6/06 | [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/2475](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/2475)

Even banks with stellar reputations such as The Sperm Bank of California (who we think very highly of after over 10 years of dealing with them) are fallible when it comes to tightly limiting the number of offspring per donor. While I'm sure TSBC sticks to its 10 family limit most of the time, our donor fathered children in 13 families. We thought we were the 10th and last family at the time we selected him. Why did this happen? They tell us that record-keeping problems are created when families don't immediately report a pregnancy and/or birth. I have no reason to believe this isn't true, though I do wish banks could be more proactive in seeking that information if families don't communicate it to them. We purchased all remaining vials from our donor 10 years ago and have been paying storage for a decade, not knowing if we'd ever try for a second child. I'm now 7 months pregnant with the 20th child in this donor's sibling group and--although I'm sure we won't be having another--I'm still reticent to let my vials revert back to the bank's ownership, just for fear that another slip might happen and the sibling group would increase even more. Some questions on my mind: Will families who don't elect to seek out siblings still seek out a "willing to be known" donor after the child is 18? So far--of the 13 families with 19 children--only 5 families with 8 children have made contact with each other. Also, keep in mind that in large groups the youngest child/sibling is going to be considerably younger than the oldest. If a sibling group meets and bonds as ours has, we'll ALL be making contact with the donor when the oldest child does. I just can't see anyone keeping that info private at that point. In our case, my baby #20 (due in November) will be 7 years old--not 18!--when her oldest half-sibling meets their shared donor. How does that change the relationship/expectations etc? Lots to ponder here.

8/16/06 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/7744>

The Sperm Bank of California, <http://www.thespermbankofca.org> is just such a bank: non-profit, responsible & ethical. It was set up in the 1980s, at a time when single & lesbian women were routinely turned away from sperm banks & fertility clinics in their quest to become parents; their client base includes many heterosexual couples as well.

TSBC pioneered the whole concept of identity-release donors; the 1<sup>st</sup> ID-release offspring reached the age of 18 a few years ago. TSBC did extensive research to prepare the bank, recipients, offspring & donors for release of information & then followed up to see how things have worked out. Their research -- all of it showing positive results -- has been presented at major medical conferences & published in international, peer-reviewed journals.

TSBC has come to Toronto several times to present at conferences our organization has sponsored on donor conception, all of which are available on tape for a nominal fee by clicking on 'store' at

<http://www.InfertilityNetwork.org> They have done so at their own expense because, as a small charity, we cannot cover speaker's travel expenses; they have no expectation of increased sales, because, unfortunately, they do not export to Canada at the present time.

3/29/06 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6718>

OMG! Finally even TSBC is acknowledging the registry. I will contact Alice later this week to try and get her to put a link on their website for us. Below is a copy of their Jan - March 2006 newsletter.

TSBC Newsletter

January - March, 2006

Family Contact Update

A recent series of articles in The New York Times focused on family building through donor insemination (DI). While we were pleased to see the topic of sperm banking on the front page of the Times, we had some reservations about the somewhat sensationalistic nature of the coverage, which promoted several popular misconceptions about sperm banking: for instance, that donors can have an unlimited number of offspring, that offspring have little or no information

about their donors, and that offspring have limited opportunity to connect with other donor families.

On the contrary, all reputable sperm banks require recipients to report conceptions and births and limit the number of families by donor (at TSBC we limit donors to ten families worldwide). Since our inception in the early 1980s, TSBC has been at the forefront of an international movement toward providing DI offspring with extensive medical and personal information about their donors, as well as facilitating contact between adult offspring and identity-release donors. And offspring have an increasing number of options for contacting other DI kids. Grassroots organizations such as the Donor Sibling Registry website or the Single Mothers by Choice Sibling Registry encourage offspring and/or their parents to search for, and possibly contact, genetic half-

siblings.

What is less well known is that TSBC has its own program that facilitates contacts between our recipient families. We instituted our Family Contact List in 1997. This free matching service provides an opportunity for families with children from the same donor to contact each other. TSBC's Family Contact List provides a higher likelihood of matching and greater assurance that matches are accurate than other programs do. Over 200 families have registered; half of these families have matched with at least one other family. Some simply exchange information by phone, email, or letter, while others meet in person regularly.

The families who have chosen to contact each other are breaking new ground, and have a unique perspective on the joys and challenges of being open about donor insemination. We surveyed the first group of recipients who were matched by our Family Contact program about their experiences and presented the results of this survey at the annual conference of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine last November. Click here to download a copy of our presentation, Contact among donor insemination (DI) families who share the same sperm donor.

3/20/06 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6482>

I was a donor at both CCB (California Cryobank) and TSBC in Berkeley, CA. Both were very thorough regarding my background but TSBC did a follow up 5 years after I stopped donating to update their records. They also told me how many children were conceived at that time. CBC never contacted me after I took my final blood test (6 months after I finished donating).

If I was looking for a donor, I would choose TSBC over CCB.

3/20/06 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6469>

I can't speak as a patient who has used their services, but only as the Exec Director of a small Canadian charity with provides info & support re infertility & advocates for reform of the donor system.

Unlike most sperm banks, TSBC is a non-profit organization. It was originally set up in the 1980s to help single & lesbian women at a time when the vast majority of sperm banks & fertility clinics would not deal with them. TSBC pioneered the concept of identity-release donors more than 20 years ago. They have conducted extensive research with donors, recipients & offspring to determine how best to prepare people for the release of this information, & followed up to see how it has worked out. Their research has been published in peer-reviewed medical journals & presented at conferences sponsored by the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (to which all the fertility clinics, sperm banks, counsellors, etc belong).

Someone from TSBC has come to Toronto to speak at several seminars on donor conception our organization has sponsored over the years. They volunteer their time & pay their own travel expenses even though they have nothing to gain financially (because, like most USA sperm banks, they do not meet current Canadian screening guidelines & so are not allowed to export into Canada).

In all my dealings with them, I have found TSBC to be open, willing to listen, & sensitive to the needs/rights of offspring, parents & donors.

3/8/06 [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/1533](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/1533)

Thanks for your reply. I didn't mention the bank's name initially because I have had only positive experiences with them until now...and still have a lot of respect for them. But for clarity's sake: I also used TSBC. That's the bank I referred to in my email.

3/8/06 [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/1532](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/1532)

> In the bank's first email reply on this issue, they mentioned his age (31) as the reason they wouldn't be inclined to ask him back for us. I was told "it is very likely that your donor's sperm would no longer meet our sperm count requirements."

<Your sperm bank definitely operates differently from the one I used (TSBC). My donor was 33, and a first-time donor, when he was first interviewed by the sperm bank, and was accepted with apparently no issues on their part. His "count" was apparently no problem as I conceived the first time. Good lord, my own father was

64 when my mother got pregnant with me--I agree with you, if you have a child using this donor, and you want to try for a full-sibling, \*and\* if they have a history of contacting donors to try to fulfill such requests, it should be your decision, not theirs, as to whether you want to pursue it.

3/8/06 [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/1531](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/1531)

I'm "delurking" today because I was told by our sperm bank that they would definitely not be willing to contact our donor if we run out of "sibling inventory" to ask him if he'd donate some more on our behalf.

In previous emails, the director indicated that they'd done this before for other families. I'm not sure if they've had a real change of policy or are deciding on a case-by-case basis. I asked that question and am waiting for their reply.

In the bank's first email reply on this issue, they mentioned his age (31) as the reason they wouldn't be inclined to ask him back for us. I was told "it is very likely that your donor's sperm would no longer meet our sperm count requirements."

I think a donor who has already helped create a child for a family is in a different category than a brand new donor. I feel strongly that banks need to realize how important "sibling inventory" is to families trying to conceive, ESPECIALLY NOW that we've made contact with half-siblings and their families...the thought of switching to another donor is a painful one. Not to mention how overwhelming/time-consuming/emotionally draining it would be to relate to two different sibling-family groups.

I just don't understand what harm there'd be for the bank to pass a request to the donor. The worst he can say is no. And if his sperm count has dropped a bit from when he was 19, well, that's our risk to take, not theirs.

I'm pretty frustrated by this barrier, which feels unnecessary, unkind and even unethical to me.

3/7/06 [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/1498](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/1498)

My son, also, who is now 16, had a developmental disorder. I used what was then known as the Sperm Bank of Northern California (in Oakland), which is now known as the Sperm Bank of California (in Berkley).

Our donor \*was\* asked whether there were any learning disabilities or genetic disorders in his family, and had a very clean family medical history (which was very important to me). I knew about the clean family medical history from the profile I was provided when I chose the donor, but that brief profile \*did not\* include the answer, or even the question, about learning disabilities or genetic disorders. I have no idea if he would have been accepted as a donor if he had answered "yes" to either of those questions. I do, however, have reason to believe the donor was very honest in answering questions put to him by the sperm bank (and thus that, to the best of his knowledge, he did not believe there was any history of either), and I believe he was honest for one very good reason—he freely answered in detail questions about drug use, multiple drugs, that he had used over a period of time. **AND THIS FACT ABOUT DRUG USE WAS NOT MADE AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I CHOSE THE DONOR**, which is something I find inexcusable on the part of the sperm bank if the information was known and available.

This information regarding drug use was available on the donor's long chart, which I was not allowed to have a copy of until \*after\* my son was born. As someone who has never used drugs, nor even alcohol or tobacco, I, personally, would not have chosen this donor if I had known about the drug use, simply because I would have had no basis to judge whether it could affect any child he fathered, and because I wouldn't have been willing to take the chance.

When my son was four years old with an obvious and severe language disorder, and they began to toss around the words Autism and PDD, I provided the multi-disciplinary team with the full long chart I, by then, had on the donor, and was told there was a possibility that the donor's drug use \*could\* very well have been the cause of my son's problems (that was what the medical part of the team focused on, and was written up in their final report as the possible cause of my son's developmental disorder). I have no idea, of course, if this was the actual cause, or if it was something unknown in my genetic history or in the donor's genetic history, or if it was some random event. I do very much appreciate the fact that the donor was willing to disclose the information, and think it should have been disclosed to potential recipients of his sperm, although I will say that I'm glad now that I \*wasn't\* told--if I'd been told I certainly would not have picked this donor; I would probably have had a child, although not my son, and I wouldn't trade him for any "typical from birth" kid in the world.

My son is doing beautifully now. He's an excellent student and a great kid. He works part time at a large grocery chain (and his bosses adore him--he's been "fast tracked" for promotion to cashier over those who have been there longer), in addition to having very close to a 4.0 in school. He's looking forward to college, and you

can't tell him from any "typical" kid except for the fact that he's extremely intelligent--I guess my point is that if \*he\* hadn't been told he had a developmental disorder as a child, he wouldn't know it today, and there is a good chance that \*his\* donor, or I, either one, might have had a similar problem as a child that we didn't know about.

BUT whatever information that \*is\* known, that could have a potential effect on a child conceived by use of a donor, such as drug use, and is disclosed by a donor, SHOULD be revealed to the potential recipients of the donation (whether sperm or egg) so that they can make an informed choice. My donor was also asked about exposure to chemicals at work (negative), or in the military (also negative), but these, also, were not answers, or even questions, on the brief profile.

My donor was honest enough to \*tell\* them something that many a donor might not reveal (or even think was anyone else's business), and something that \*I\* assume he believed would be revealed to those considering the choice of him as a donor--but the actual ability to make that informed choice was taken out of my hands, and the hands of others who did choose him for a donor. According to the sperm bank, my child is from the only reported pregnancy and only reported birth from this donor, although I do know good and well that there could be others who did not report in (and thus I'm registered on the DSR). I don't blame the donor, at all, for my son's difficulties--the donor was honest, I believe, to the best of his own knowledge--but I do believe that knowledge that the sperm bank had should have been revealed to me in the course of choosing him as a donor. The sperm bank did \*not\* have the right to make the decision \*for\* me, nor for the other recipients of his sperm, that use of multiple drugs over a period of time would not affect children conceived as a result of his donation. That was a choice that I should have had the right to make.

2/24/06 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6100>

I used the Sperm Bank of Northern California (located in Oakland), which I just discovered last week is now known as the Sperm Bank of California (now located in Berkley--they're listed separately on the DSR but are the same sperm bank). I contacted them last week, and already received a copy this week of the long, detailed chart (including medical and personal and family history) on the donor (for a charge of only \$15, for probably 8 pages of non-personally-identifiable information). As my son will turn 17 this year, the records are almost as old as those you are seeking.

8/31/05 | [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/995](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/995)

TBSC does a lot of things differently than the commercial banks, most likely because they are non-profit. For example, they were the 1<sup>st</sup> bank to offer identity-release donors (about 20 yrs ago!), provide proper counseling for their donors & do extensive research (good enough to be published in peer-reviewed journals) on how it is all working out.

8/31/05 | [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/994](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/994)

Re: Pregnancies per geographical area. As far as I can tell, this limit is also true for the Sperm Bank of California. They said no when I wanted to continue purchasing vials from the donor with whom I'd been trying. The reason that they gave was he had already reached his family max. Also, I know that they stopped selling the donor with whom I eventually became pregnant when he reached his max. There are still vials available to me and the other families for siblings, but they will not sell vials to anyone else. On the other hand TSBC is a non-profit so maybe that makes a difference. I don't know.

8/28/05 | [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/963](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/963)

Sperm banks usually define 'region' as an area having a population of 100,000. This means that, in Metro Toronto (where I am) which has a population of 3,000,000, 1 donor could have as many as  $3,000,000/100,000 * 10 = 300$  offspring.

[from moderator ML: I don't know what definition CCB use, but the ASRM now recommends a cutoff of 25 pregnancies per region defining "region" as a population of 800,000.

Every sperm bank seems to handle this differently. The Rainbow Flag sperm bank says "We limit our donors to have children by only 4-6 different women." The Sperm Bank of California says: "Our limit is ten families

worldwide for each donor."

It is possible for US donors to donate at more than one sperm bank since there is no central register.]

8/19/05 [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/893](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/893)

18 years ago, CCB was one of the major sperm banks (likewise Idant) that raised loud objections to the idea that The Sperm Bank of California had the courage to buck the century-old system of total anonymity with its Identity Release Donors. Cappy Rothman was the biggest critic of it at that time. Like so many banks at that time, any potential donor that mentioned an interest in these future children, or even saw them as "their" genetic children were automatically screened out of the programs. Remember in those days not so long ago, only married couples were allowed access to donor insemination and banks actively promoted secrecy within families. Single women and lesbians resorted to other methods not sanctioned by infertility clinics. When CCB and Xytex began losing recipients who went over to TSBC, they started to realize that their clients were not going to put up with their intimidation, strict rules, and arrogance. It began known that there was another bank that actually listened to infertile people and offered them CHOICES. It wasn't until TSBC grew in popularity because of their willingness to be covered in the media, that other sperm banks began to offer some choices, although never on the level of openness that TSBC's "Yes Donors" program offers.

I would imagine that CCB is not contacting the donors from the earlier programs before they instituted their "Willing to be Known" donor program, which is a very weak version of Identity Release. Xytex appeared to have a growing level of openness and willingness to help DI children, but it looks like they are now regressing to the norm.

I am not pushing TSBC here. I don't like the fact that they still carry some "No Donors." Although I advocate choice, I don't believe that choice means ID Release versus anonymous donors. The choice should be up to the DI person conceived to make decisions about whether or not to contact his/her genetic donor.

For TSBC to offer the choice of anonymous donors is to deny the person conceived any right to choose to make connections to his/her genealogical heritage. It's not the same as someone having no choice because they were born through a private affair. In DI, society is directly involved with the conception and it is controlled by professionals who swear an oath to "Do No Harm." The assumption of harm must be taken since there is no proof that secrecy doesn't do harm. It is not up to us to prove that secrecy does harm. We DI adults know that it does. Rather it is up to the profession to prove that it doesn't, which they can't because secrecy prevents the openness necessary to make any legitimate study. In any other medical procedure, there is an explicit obligation to examine the outcome to ensure that there is no harm, or that the good of the procedure outweighs the harm. With DI we can't know that without first eliminating secrecy and especially anonymity. The answers must come from the donor conceived person himself, not as interpreted by his parents or his parents' fertility doctor. The medical profession washes its hands of responsibility for creating life in this manner by claiming that the birth of a baby is a sign of DI success. We all know that this is an extremely narrow view that dismisses the importance of the sociological and psychological impact of DI on parents, donors, DI children, DI adults as well as the spouses of DI adults and their children.

6/25/05 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/4852>

- > Can anyone
- > tell me which cryobank supplies the most info. and if
- > there is a way for the bank to get the donor's consent
- > that the child can meet them at a specified age?

Contact The Sperm Bank of California, <http://www.thespermbankofca.org> . This is a non-profit sperm bank originally set up to help single/lesbian women have children at a time when most other sperm banks & fertility clinics would not deal with them. TSBC pioneered the whole concept of donor identity release 20+ yrs ago, & have now had many offspring come of age (18) & have the donor's info released to them. They have published several research papers in peer-reviewed journals about the formal research they've undertaken, the results of which have been very positive.

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 overall 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 his 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 forthcoming 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, hindsight! 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.

4/7/05 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/4439>

For all those that used The Sperm Bank of California (TSBC) and are searching for siblings or donors....please call the cryobank (510) 841-1858. They have a "family match" program for their users that will search for any siblings for any particular donor and will give you the contact information.

2/16/05 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/4160>

I was at an Infertility Network Conference in Toronto a few years ago and met David Towles from Xytex in Georgia. We were staying in the same B&B and I watched him unload tanks from his van that he was delivering to ReproMed. During the quarantine of Canadian donor sperm a while ago, clinics were regularly receiving sperm from Xytex and other places like CCB and the Sperm Bank of California. Cryos in Denmark is shipping worldwide and setting up clinics in the US. It's like the second Viking invasion. When the directors of the UC Irvine clinic fled the country out of fear of fraud charges for using embryos contrary to their owners' wishes, most of their unclaimed embryos were delivered to Cappy Rothman at CCB, who apparently is just storing them in limbo.

Donor Michael Beany wrote, in a semi-autobiographical novel "Children of Eden," about donating at three different clinics at the same time in London during the sixties. These clinics compete with each other so I doubt they share their databases about their donors. Since the counts and quality drop with too frequent donations, I doubt this happens much or the donors would not be acceptable. Nothing theoretically stops a retired donor from donating under another ID number at another clinic after he reaches his first clinic's limit (those that have such limits). I remember an interview several years ago with a Canadian RE who said that he didn't have the resources to check out a donor's background or medical history. As he said, he was not "the morality police."

All this demonstrates the need for consistent regulation of this business/profession on an international level.

8/30/03 [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/356](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/356)

Found this information on TSBC's AboutUs page under Staff and History. States that they ship worldwide but as far as percentages you would need to contact them directly.

The Sperm Bank of California (TSBC) began operations on October 5, 1982 in Oakland. We began as a project of the Oakland Feminist Women's Health Center, a family planning clinic. By 1988, we had expanded into an independent non-profit corporation, and moved to a larger site in Oakland. In 1992, we obtained our tissue

bank licenses from California and New York State. In 1995, we moved to our present location in downtown Berkeley, and became licensed as a clinical laboratory in California.

TSBC has a history of pioneering work in the field of reproductive technologies. We were the first sperm bank in the United States to:

- create an identity-release sm program
- serve lesbians and single women
- provide extensive personal and family medical histories on donors
- promote self-insemination, and offer instruction on how to perform inseminations at home
- track and limit the number of births per donor
- document conception and birth rates
- operate as a non-profit organization

We ship frozen semen samples to women and couples around the world.

As of April, 2001 we are pleased to report over 1000 children born through our services, of which 51% are boys and 49% are girls. Our cumulative 12-month pregnancy rate is 77%.

8/24/03 [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/331](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/331)

Since I am fairly new to this group, I'm not sure whether any of these articles have been posted on line before, but I wanted to point out that TSBC does research on DI and ID release donors and disclosure. It is a bit academic and dense but I prefer reading that type of article to popular editorials and journals. (NOTE: see current TSBC website for research links, as the ones from this message no longer work--  
<http://www.thespermbankofca.org>).

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.

8/16/03 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/>

8-16-03 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/1877>  
I've had contact with TSBC (The Sperm Bank of California, <http://www.thespermbankofca.org>) for the past several years, & have been impressed with their progressive attitudes & practices, eg:

- \* the 1st & only American NON-profit sperm bank; the other banks are for-profit
- \* in 1983 established the 1st donor-ID release program under which 18 yr old offspring can learn donor's identity if donor gave consent at time of donation. (TSBC was 20 yrs ahead of where most sperm banks are even today!)
- \* actively seek to recruit ID release donors & are very successful doing so

- \* before 1st offspring were to come of age (2001), TSBC conducted extensive interviews & focus groups with donors, offspring, parents to determine the best way to facilitate this process.
- \* strong-commitment to non-discrimination (TSBC was originally established out of a desire to help single/lesbian women; at the time, sperm banks & fertility clinics would not treat them)
- \* governed by a Board of Directors recruited from the community. Among others the board includes social workers with extensive experience in infertility & adoption.
- \* provide education & resources to clients & donors
- \* conduct research on the psychosocial implications of DI; this research has been published in recognized journals
- \* provide detailed information on donors, including donor profiles, donor narratives, personal & family medical histories, & photo-matching services.
- \* offer a Family Contact List to enable families to connect with other families who have used the same donor.
- \* offer support groups

TSBC staff have twice traveled to Toronto, at their own expense, to speak at our seminars on donor conception even though doing so would not lead to any increased sales for TSBC since unfortunately - they do not export sperm to Canada.

5/28/03 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/985>

I was directed to your site by one of our clients. She was very excited to hear about your service on Oprah and wanted to let us know how happy she was to have made contact with another family. I don't know if there is anyway to note this on your site but The Sperm Bank of California also maintains a Family Contact List that functions similar to your list. TSBC families may request to be on the Family Contact List to be matched with families with children from the same donor and if there is a match we let both families know. Interested families can contact us via email at [info@thespermbankofca.org](mailto:info@thespermbankofca.org), they should include the parents' names and contact information along with the child's name, birthdate, and donor number in their request.