

EMBRYO DONATION PROGRAM

Shady Grove Fertility

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DO I START THE DONATION PROCESS?

If a patient meets the basic qualification criteria, the first step is to complete their Embryo Donor Profile through the Embryo Options website. Both partners, if applicable, will need to create their own profile.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR ANONYMOUS EMBRYO DONATION?

If patients qualify based on their embryos, age, and profile, they will be asked to meet with a Mental Health Provider for psychological education.

HOW LONG DOES THE PROCESS TAKE?

Based upon the time it takes for you to complete your Embryo Donor Profile, meet with a Mental Health Provider, and sign the consent, the process can take as little as 2 weeks.

ARE IN-PERSON APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED FOR ANONYMOUS EMBRYO DONATION?

No: for patients local to a Shady Grove Fertility office, only one appointment will be needed in order to meet with a Mental Health Provider. For non-local patients, the appointment with the Mental Health Provider can be done via video conference.

IS THERE A MINIMUM OR MAXIMUM NUMBER OF EMBRYOS THAT I CAN DONATE?

No, you may donate as few as one embryo, or as many frozen embryos that meet the eligibility requirements as you wish.

WILL I KNOW THE OUTCOME OF MY DONATION; IF THE RECIPIENT(S) WAS SUCCESSFUL OR NOT?

If you donate your embryos anonymously, you will not know the outcome of the donation.

IS THERE A POSSIBILITY THAT MY EMBRYOS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR ANONYMOUS DONATION?

While our goal is to assist you in donating your embryos, there is a possibility that your embryos will not be accepted for an anonymous donation. Your physician, along with our highly specialized embryology lab technicians, will evaluate the quality of your embryos to confirm they meet our donation standards.

IF I MEET ALL OF THE BASIC QUALIFICATION CRITERIA, WHY WOULD SGF NOT ACCEPT SOME EMBRYOS FOR ANONYMOUS DONATION?

If you have abnormal infectious disease bloodwork results, you may be excluded from donating your embryos anonymously.

WHAT TYPE OF INFORMATION WILL BE ASKED ON THE EMBRYO DONOR PROFILE?

The Embryo Donor Profile will provide an opportunity for prospective recipients to learn about you as the donating person/couple, in regards to your medical history, physical characteristics, as well as information about your family, including your children and their health history. You will also be asked to provide pictures of yourself as a child. When donating embryos anonymously, the prospective recipient wants information regarding the person/couple who created the embryos, therefore the accuracy and completeness of the information you provide on the profile is very important.

WILL I INCUR ANY EXPENSES BY DONATING?

The session with the Mental Health Provider is covered by Shady Grove Fertility. However, some patients may wish to seek legal advice and/or attend multiple sessions with a Mental Health Provider prior to donating their embryos. These costs are not covered by Shady Grove Fertility.



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WILL I GET AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE RECIPIENT OF MY DONATED EMBRYOS?

It depends on the type of donation you have chosen:

- Anonymous Embryo Donation: You will not know the identity or any information about the recipient(s) of your embryos. Shady Grove Fertility will assist in the matching of your embryos with a recipient(s).
- Directed (Known) Embryo Donation: Patients will have the option of donating their embryos to someone they know - such as a family member, friend, or acquaintance.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY EMBRYOS ARE NOT MATCHED WITH A RECIPIENT?

In the event your embryos have not been matched in 2 years, the embryos will be discarded according to laboratory standards, or used for internal training.

CAN MORE THAN ONE RECIPIENT BENEFIT FROM MY DONATED EMBRYOS?

Yes, based on the number of embryos you donate as well as the outcome of the donated embryos, more than one recipient may have the opportunity to benefit from your donation. If a recipient of your donated embryos completes their own family and has excess embryos, they may donate them, allowing another recipient the chance of using your donated embryos to grow their family.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I CHANGE MY MIND AFTER DONATING THE EMBRYOS?

Shady Grove Fertility will wait 10 days following the donation before making the embryos available to a recipient. In the event you change your mind after 10 days, you must contact Shady Grove Fertility to inform us of your decision, at which time you will be informed if the embryo(s) remain available to you and have not been matched and/or used by a recipient. If the embryo(s) remain available, they will be returned to you and you will need to determine disposition of the embryos.

I HAD PRE-IMPLANTATION SCREENING (PGS) OF MY EMBRYOS; ARE MY EMBRYOS ELIGIBLE FOR DONATION?

If you had PGS and have excess normal embryos (46 chromosomes), you are eligible to donate your embryos anonymously.

I UNDERWENT PRE-IMPLANTATION GENETIC DIAGNOSIS (PGD) OF MY EMBRYOS, FOR A SPECIFIC GENETIC CONDITION; WILL MY EMBRYOS BE ELIGIBLE FOR DONATION?

If you underwent PGD, based on a specific genetic condition, your embryos will not be eligible for anonymous donation.

I DON'T REMEMBER THE DETAILS OF MY EMBRYOS WITH REGARDS TO THEIR GRADING

Not to worry; once you have completed your profile, the Donor Embryo Coordinator will research the details of your embryos and will populate that information on your profile.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR A DIRECTED (KNOWN) DONATION?

If you are participating in a directed (known) donation, the acceptance criteria may vary from that of an anonymous donation. Our desire is to assist you in donating your embryos, as well as help facilitate the recipient patient/couple having a high probability of conception.

I PLAN ON DONATING MY EMBRYOS TO SOMEONE I KNOW, IS THERE ANYTHING I SHOULD KNOW?

Donating embryos to a directed (known) recipient allows for you to have a unique relationship with this person, as well as know the outcome of the donation. To ensure you have all concerns and the parameters of the donation defined, both you and the recipient will be required to seek legal counsel with an attorney who specializes in reproductive health, and to have a contract generated. In addition, you will both undergo a psychological evaluation individually, and then together as



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a group. This again provides an opportunity to talk through the donation, as well as the expectations of each party.

The cost of your screening, including legal counsel and contracts, will be covered by you or the recipient of your embryos.

I USED AN ANONYMOUS SPERM DONOR TO CREATE MY EMBRYOS, WILL THIS CHANGE THE PROCESS?

When creating your Embryo Donor Profile, you will be asked if you used either an egg or sperm donor. Please answer Yes. You will then be asked to upload a copy of the sperm donor's profile. If you do not have a copy of the sperm donor's profile, please contact the sperm bank to obtain a copy of his profile, in addition to the donor's genetic screening documentation, and childhood pictures if available.

I USED AN ANONYMOUS EGG DONOR TO CREATE MY EMBRYOS, CAN I STILL DONATE?

Yes; when creating your Embryo Donor Profile, you will be asked if you used either an egg or sperm donor. Please answer Yes. Shady Grove Fertility will upload a copy of your Egg Donor's Profile directly to your profile.

WHERE CAN I TURN IF I HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT SHADY GROVE FERTILITY'S EMBRYO DONATION PROGRAM?

For questions or concerns, please contact Alethia Woodley, the Donor Embryo Coordinator, by calling 301-545-1230 or email Alethia.Woodley@Integramed.com



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