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# Embryo donation:

## Information for embryo donors

Medisch Centrum Kinderwens

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### Introduction

You have contacted the MCK Fertility Center because you wish to donate the leftover embryos from your IVF or ICSI treatment. The MCK Fertility Center is currently the only fertility center in the Netherlands to offer this possibility.

### What is embryo donation?

Embryo donation is the donation of leftover embryos from an IVF or ICSI treatment to another couple: the acceptors. At the MCK Fertility Center, the embryos will be donated to acceptors who cannot conceive using their own reproductive cells.

According to legislation, the mother of a child is the woman from whom the child has been born. The father of the child is the man who is married to the child's mother at the time of birth. Therefore, the only relation between the embryo donors and the child born from said donation is genetic. There is no juridical relation whatsoever. This means that the embryo donor has no rights or obligations regarding the child.

### Under what conditions can we consider you for embryo donation?

Despite their good intentions, not everyone can be considered for embryo donation. The MCK Fertility Center has developed a protocol for screening the applications. Prospective embryo donors must fulfill the following criteria:

- You have no intentions of expanding your own family further.
- You are healthy mentally as well as physically.
- You do not have a family history of hereditary conditions.
- You are not seropositive, nor do you have any other venereal diseases.
- You are willing to have your personal data registered into the national donor bank.
- Your embryos were not developed using donated sperm. This is due to the agreed-upon number of children any one donor is allowed to sire.

### The procedure following your application

After your application has been screened for the above-mentioned criteria, our protocol includes the following:

- a medical intake and blood test
- an intake with one of our fertility counselors

## Medical intake and blood test

During this consultation, we'll take an extensive look at your medical background and hereditary diseases that may or may not have occurred in your family. This will be done using a questionnaire. If any essential changes in your health occur either during or after embryo donation, we expect you to report these to us, so that we can discuss possible consequences for the child with the acceptors.

In addition to this, we will take a blood sample. This will be analyzed for traces of infectious or hereditary diseases such as syphilis, HIV (AIDS), hepatitis B and hepatitis C. The "Werkgroep Klinische Virologie" (the Dutch Society of Clinical Virology) has issued advice stating that we must screen all donors in this way, even if previous tests came back negative. We will only accept the embryos for donation if all tests come back negative.

## Fertility counselor intake

A consultation with one of our fertility counselors will be scheduled after you've had the medical intake. They will elaborate on the psychosocial and societal factors which play a role in embryo donation.

Our team will decide whether you are eligible for donating embryos or not based on the outcomes of the abovementioned tests and consultations.

## Transporting the embryos to Leiderdorp

All embryo donation procedures take place at the MCK Fertility Center in Leiderdorp. This means that embryos located at another facility must be transported to our Fertility Center. Since embryo donors usually take care of this themselves, we will provide you with instruction and the necessary forms for the transport.

## De Wet Donorgegevens Kunstmatige Bevruchting

According to the 'Wet Donorgegevens Kunstmatige Bevruchting' (law on Donors' Personal Details for Artificial Insemination), children born from donated oocytes have the right to know the donor. When donating, donor parents provide several personal identifying details such as name, birthdate and address. In addition to this, they give several physical, social, medical and personal traits. This data is kept in the MCK fertility Center until a child is born from an embryo donated by them; then it will be sent to the Stichting Donorgegevens, an organization which was created to make the child's right to know the donor possible. Children older than twelve can request personal non-identifying details to get a first impression of 'their' donor. Children older than sixteen can request personal identifying details. More information on this law can be found on this website: [www.donorgegevens.nl](http://www.donorgegevens.nl).

## Information regarding the acceptors

A couple is eligible to receive an embryo if they have one or more of the following medical indications:

- they have no (functional) ovaries and no (functional) sperm;
- previous IVF/ICSI treatments have shown that the chances of conceiving using their own oocytes and sperm cells are close to zero;
- at least one of them suffers from or carries a genetic affliction with a high risk of being passed on to a child.

Potential acceptors can register until the intended mother's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday, and her health must be such that it is possible for her to undergo and successfully complete the treatment. Due to the shortage of donated embryos, acceptors can undergo an embryo transfer using donated embryos no more than twice. No more than one embryo will be transferred at a time.

## Reimbursement

In the Netherlands, it is forbidden by law to sell embryos with the intent to profit. Due to this, embryo donors will not be paid for their embryos. They will, however, be reimbursed for their travelling expenses. This at a rate of €0,19/km.

## Register

You can register for embryo donation by sending an email or calling:

Telephone: 071 5812300 (MO-FRI 08:00 a.m.- 12:00 a.m. and 01:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. SA: 10:00 a.m.- 01:00 p.m. )

**E-mail:** [info@mckinderwens.nl](mailto:info@mckinderwens.nl)

**Website:** [www.mckinderwens.nl](http://www.mckinderwens.nl)