

## Beginnings Embryo Donation Recipient – General Information

Thank you for your inquiry with Beginnings! We are very excited about the Embryo Donation Program and are happily taking new Donors and Recipients. As you may know, Beginnings is the only provider of open embryo donation services in Canada.

We will quickly go through the steps for becoming a Recipient through Beginnings. **If you decide that you would like to pursue Embryo Donation through Beginnings please feel free to email Mary Howlett-Nero ([mary.howlett-nero@beginnings.ca](mailto:mary.howlett-nero@beginnings.ca)) our program director, Julia Milmine ([julia.milmine@beginnings.ca](mailto:julia.milmine@beginnings.ca)) our program coordinator, and Stephanie Parker ([stephanie.parker@beginnings.ca](mailto:stephanie.parker@beginnings.ca)) our program assistant.**

To begin, you will complete a registration form and pay the registration fee of \$200. Once this has been received, Mary or Julia will set up a consultation appointment with you. These appointments take approximately one hour, depending on the amount of questions you have, and are facilitated over Zoom. The consultation is \$350 and will go over program information, your background, motivation, and infertility history. We will discuss openness and see if you are eligible for our program. The main requirement is that the female recipient is able to carry a pregnancy and has medical clearance from her doctor to do so. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate the use of surrogates at this time. We also request that you are a Canadian resident in order to proceed with our program.

Prior to being matched with a potential Donor, full assessments need to be completed, which are \$450 with an adoption Homestudy or \$1300 without. These assessments include a questionnaire, information from your consultation, police clearance, child welfare clearance, a medical check from your family doctor, and references. Eventually, once matched, this assessment will be shared with your fertility clinic as well as the Donor family you are matched with. A psychosocial assessment is also completed with the Donor, which is \$500. We require that Donors do have a minimum of two embryos in order to be eligible for our program so that you have at least two chances of attaining a pregnancy.

The matching process is a mutual selection process. Donors will provide detailed information about the qualities, characteristics and circumstances of the Recipients requested. These may include personal background, education, religion, racial/ethnic match, degree of openness desires, number of children wanted, etc. Recipients will also receive non-identifying information about the Donors, such as health history, number of children born, and degree of openness wanted. After this information has been reviewed, Recipients will select which Donor(s) they would like to be presented to in hopes of a match. Once a match occurs and the Recipient profile is selected, full information will be disclosed to both parties. **In regards to wait times** – we cannot provide specifics as to how long the matching process may take as it is based on what you, as a Recipient are looking for, and what the Donors are looking for. While some recipients are

matched rather quickly once their assessment is completed, others may be waiting some time before the right match as our available Donors are always in flux. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee a match through our program.

Once you are matched, there is a “First Meeting” between Donors and Recipients via Zoom to discuss expectations and ongoing contact arrangements. These meetings will be facilitated by Beginnings staff and are aimed to help you get to know one another, and to help draft what your open relationship may look like. After this meeting, the Recipient(s) return to their chosen fertility clinic for a final medical assessment and our \$5000 Agency fee is now due.

Beginnings communicates and coordinates services with the two fertility clinics and provides the psycho-social assessment reports. We also ensure that a legal agreement is in place utilizing lawyers specializing in fertility law within Canada. Once the legal agreement is completed and signed, recipients can then return to their chosen clinic to prepare for the embryo transfer(s).

**Overall, we estimate that the cost of embryo donation is between \$12,000-\$15,000.** This includes the fees for Beginnings, your legal fees (one lawyer for the recipient and one for the Donor), and shipping costs from the Donor’s clinic to your clinic, and a transfer at your clinic. Please note that costs will vary depending on where the embryos are coming from and that your fertility clinic will have a specific fee schedule that they follow. It is important to note that under the Assisted Human Reproduction Act, Donors cannot receive any financial compensation for their donation of embryos or gametes and must make the decision to donate altruistically.

You will find more information about our Embryo Donation Program at [www.beginnings.ca](http://www.beginnings.ca). The FAQ section has a lot of information. <https://www.beginnings.ca/frequently-asked-questions/>

Thank you for your interest.