

Learn More about the Donor Process:

Beginnings established the first national open embryo donation program in Canada in 2010. Our program is inclusive and is open to all residents of Canada. We are happily accepting new donors for our Embryo Donor/Recipient Program.

Donors have the ability to choose a recipient family and maintain contact to a mutually agreeable level.

Donation of your remaining embryos must be altruistic with no compensation paid for your participation in the program.

Please note: Beginnings does require that you have a minimum of two embryos in order to be a part of our program. This is due to the fact that most Recipients would like at least two chances to attain a successful pregnancy or to have children that are genetic siblings to one another.

The process includes:

- 1) Completion of registration paperwork (provided upon request), including Donor Family information and information on Donor's children.
- 2) Provision of embryology report. If you do not have a copy of the embryology report, Beginnings is happy to request one, on your behalf, from your fertility clinic where the embryos are stored.
- 3) Consultation with Beginnings' staff to learn more about the program and to better understand your fertility journey. The consultation is completed via Zoom or a similar platform and usually takes between 1-1.5 hours
- 4) Your counsellor will complete an assessment to ensure that all implications of your donation are understood and to discuss recipient preferences. Our agency philosophy is child focussed and takes into consideration the psychosocial needs of children born from assisted reproductive technologies. We prepare all parties for the lifelong complexities associated with embryo donation. You will receive a copy of the assessment report.
- 5) Review recipient profiles and select a family.
- 6) "First meeting" with Recipient(s) facilitated by Beginnings' staff via Zoom (1 hour)
- 7) Completion of a legal agreement between you and the Recipient(s) using lawyers that specialize in fertility law. All costs will be covered by the Recipient(s).
- 8) Beginnings will coordinate all aspects of the plan with the two fertility clinics.

After these steps are completed and the embryos are legally transferred to the Recipients, Donor responsibility for the embryos ceases. The Recipient(s) will attend their fertility clinic, comply with regulations and medical advice, and then complete the embryo transfer procedure. The Donor(s) will be informed of outcomes and ongoing contact is maintained based on the wishes of both parties. Beginnings offers follow up support should the Donors and/or Recipients request it.

Please note: Embryos remain in storage at your clinic until the donation plan is completed as Beginnings is not a fertility clinic and does not have a storage facility. Beginnings is legally unable to assist with embryo storage fees. Potential Donors must keep their storage fees current with their fertility clinic until the donation occurs.

If you decide that you would like to pursue embryo donation through Beginnings, please contact Julia Milmine (julia.milmine@beginnings.ca), our Program Coordinator. You can also find more information about our Embryo Donor/Recipient Program in the FAQ section at <https://www.beginnings.ca/frequently-asked-questions/>.

Thank you for your interest in the Beginnings Embryo Donor/Recipient Program.