

Embryo Recipient 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 recipients for our Embryo Donor/Recipient Program.

The female recipient must have medical clearance from their family doctor and/or specialist to become pregnant. However, a surrogacy plan might be considered by some of our donors if you already have a surrogacy plan in place, including a third-party assessment completed for the surrogate. Further discussion with agency staff will be required before a decision about using a surrogate can be confirmed.

As Beginnings is not a fertility clinic, you will need to confirm with your individual clinic that they are willing and able to accept donated embryos. If they are unable to do so, please contact Beginnings and we will be happy to provide you with a list of clinics that work with embryo donation.

Next steps:

1. Complete an intake form and schedule a Zoom consultation appointment, through our Coordinator, Sheena, (sheena.radojcic@beginnings.ca), with one of our counsellors. The 1 – 1.5-hour appointment will review program information, your background, motivation, and infertility history and will discuss openness. - \$350
2. Complete and return the Service Agreement and Electronic communications waiver (provided upon request) – \$200 fee to register with the program, if you elect to move forward.
3. Complete implications counselling session and report, as well as social and medical history report, with Beginnings staff - \$400 for each of two reports (for a total of \$800). These reports include information from your consultation, police clearances, and a medical check from your general practitioner. Eventually, once matched, these reports will be shared with your fertility clinic as well as with the Donor family with whom you are matched.
4. Completion of a personal profile which will be shared with the waiting donors registered with Beginnings. We will provide guidelines and review your draft.
5. Ready to be matched - Recipients will select which Donor(s) they would like to be presented to in hopes of a match. We require that our Donors 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. All donors will all have completed a

psychosocial assessment (\$800 fee for recipients once you are matched). The matching process is a mutual selection process. Recipients will receive non-identifying information about the unmatched Donors, such as physical characteristics, health history, number of children born, degree of openness desired, and information on their embryos.

6. Once a match occurs full information will be disclosed to both parties and a “First Meeting” will be facilitated by Beginnings staff. The meeting will assist you in getting to know each other and to discuss relationship expectations and openness. - \$1,000 agency fee due after First Meeting
7. Discuss the donation plans with your doctor and fertility clinic. After your clinic confirms the plan is able to go forward, the final agency fee is due - \$4,000
8. Complete a legal agreement with lawyers specializing in fertility law in Canada. Fees are payable directly to the lawyers (\$2000 - \$3000).
9. Once the legal agreement is completed and signed, recipients can then return to their chosen clinic to prepare for the embryo transfer(s). Clinic fees for a FET and embryo storage are payable directly to your clinic.
10. Additional fees may include shipping, and handling fees from the donor’s clinic.
11. Beginnings staff will facilitate and coordinate all aspects of the plan with the fertility clinics.

The length of time for the matching process may vary as it is based on a mutual selection process. While some recipients are matched rather quickly once their assessment is completed, others may be waiting for some time before the right match occurs. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee a match through our program.

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.

If you would like to find out more about embryo donation through Beginnings, please contact Sheena Radojic (sheena.radojic@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.