



Wendy Kramer, advocate for donor-conceived children, on discrepancies in record keeping

This is a guest post by Wendy Kramer, director of the Donor Sibling Registry (DSR)

In my most recent blog entry (<https://www.donorsiblingregistry.com/blog/>), I talk about the huge discrepancy between the numbers that the reproductive medicine industry reports for the health of egg donors following donation, (and offer a possible reason for this discrepancy). I should note that this is important health/medical information that is oftentimes given to donors before they donate, to reassure them that the process is safe.

I also address another discrepancy: while the industry, specifically the ASRM and SART, do admit that there is no accurate tracking of sperm donation births, they do continue to insist that they have accurate records of babies born through egg donation. In our research we

found that 42% of parents of egg donors children were never asked to report their births. So having accurate records is therefore *just not possible*.

<https://www.donorsiblingregistry.com/sites/default/files/files/Oocyte%20paper.pdf>
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This lack of record keeping of both egg and sperm donation is only one of the many issues facing donors, parents and most importantly, the people born from donor sperm and eggs. There are thousands of donor-conceived people born into a system that has little to no record keeping, little to no updating and sharing of medical information, and no comprehensive medical/genetic testing of donors. This is also a system that has tried very hard to keep parents and donors uninformed about the needs and rights of donor conceived people and one that has tried very hard to keep donor conceived people from connecting with their first-degree genetic relatives. This is why, in 2000, my (then 10 year old) donor conceived son Ryan and I started the Donor Sibling Registry (DSR).

Certain that other donor offspring would have the same curiosity as Ryan about his genetic origins – yet also knowing that sadly, no public outlet existed for mutual consent contact between people born from anonymous sperm and egg donation, the DSR was started as the logical next step to making those connections. The DSR's mission is to connect, educate and support donor families. So besides connecting genetic relatives, we also conduct and publish research, educate the industry and the public through media stories and outreach programs, advocate for donor offspring's rights, and provide support for our members and all those in the donor family. Currently, the DSR has more than 46,200 worldwide members and has helped to connect more than 12,150 people with their half siblings and/or their donors. In 2013, we wrote the first comprehensive book for children born through donor conception and their families, called *Finding Our Families: A First-of-Its-Kind Book for Donor-Conceived People and Their Families*.

<https://www.donorsiblingregistry.com/resource-library/New%20Book>
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Wendy Kramer is the mother of a donor conceived child, and the Co-founder and Director of the Donor Sibling Registry (DSR). The DSR is a charity organization, founded in 2000, whose mission is to assist individuals conceived as a result of sperm, egg or embryo donation that are seeking to

make mutually desired contact with others with whom they share genetic ties. With more than 46,200 worldwide members, the DSR has helped to connect more than 12,150 offspring with their half-siblings and/or their donors. Wendy was Associate Producer on the Style Network's 2011 Emmy nominated show "Sperm Donor" and on MTV's 2013 docu-series Generation Cryo, and is co-author of 2013's Finding Our Families: A First-of-its-kind book for Donor-Conceived People and their Families. She holds a B.A. from Long Island University. Her views do not necessarily reflect the position of the International Children's Rights Institute.

← *Two recent articles by ICRI President Robert Oscar Lopez (<http://internationalchildrensrights.com/?p=133>)*

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