



bright expectations
An SCRC Company

How Does The Egg Donor Process Work?
A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO
EGG DONATION



Who needs an egg donor?

There are many situations in which an individual or couple needs an egg donor to start a family. Some common reasons to use an egg donor include:

- ➔ **Age:** A woman's ovaries contain all the eggs she will ever need from birth. As a woman ages, so do her eggs.
- ➔ **Early menopause:** The early onset of menopause can begin at age thirty or younger, leaving these women very little time to start a family.
- ➔ **Medical reasons:** A woman with a reproductive disorder, ovaries damaged by a disease or disease treatment, or who was born without ovaries may choose to use an egg donor to start a family.
- ➔ **Repeated failed pregnancies:** Women of all ages have a hard time getting or staying pregnant, often for unknown reasons.
- ➔ **Same-sex couples:** Same-sex male couples must have an egg donor, in order to achieve pregnancy.

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Who are donors?

Many donors are young working women or students who have decided to help those who are unable to achieve a pregnancy for various reasons. Egg donors traditionally remain anonymous unless both parties—donors and intended parents—consent to a relationship.

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Why donate?

Donors often use their compensation to pursue their professional and personal goals—from completing their education to starting a business, building a savings account, traveling, and more.

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How does it work?

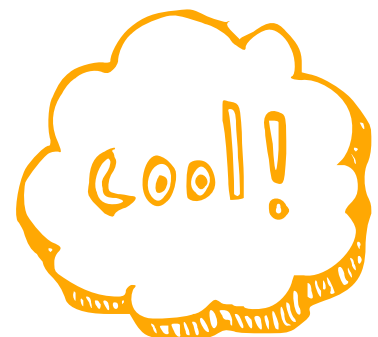
Becoming an egg donor is minimally time-consuming and requires approximately 6 to 8 doctor appointments throughout the entire process. Most of these appointments can be arranged around your schedule, and typically take place in the morning. We cover all expenses. Our ultimate goal is to ensure that your experience is a comfortable and positive one!

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Breaking it down in a nutshell

- ➔ After completing the application, you are matched with intended parents. Upon being matched, you will be scheduled for a medical screening and psychological evaluation at an SCRC location.
- ➔ Once you have been medically cleared, you will be provided with an attorney who will assist and support you in reviewing your donor contract.
- ➔ The clinic will provide you with a calendar outlining the medical protocol for the egg donation process and information on egg retrieval.
- ➔ Once retrieval has taken place, our staff will follow up to ensure you are recovering well.

Your commitment to the process is complete!



THE DONATION PROCESS IN MORE DETAIL

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A donor will undergo a medical exam, which consists of an appointment with a designated physician, along with a genetic and psychological screening. The exam includes a pelvic exam and pap smear, a pregnancy test, blood tests to determine hormone levels and the presence of any infectious diseases, and a psychological screening by a mental health professional. Results from the medical screening can take 3 to 4 weeks.

2



Once the donor has passed medical screening, they will be referred to an attorney who will review their donor contract with them. The contract is a formal agreement that outlines what is expected of each party throughout the donor cycle. After the contract has been signed, the donor is cleared to start the cycle.

3



The egg retrieval process lasts around 2 to 3 weeks from the day medications begin to the day the eggs are extracted. The donor receives a series of follicle-stimulating hormone therapy injections that tells her ovaries to prepare several oocytes (mature eggs) for release. The egg extraction procedure itself is done under sedation on an outpatient basis and takes about 15 to 20 minutes. Guided by ultrasound, an attachment is used to aspirate the eggs from the follicles of both ovaries. The procedure is non-invasive (no cutting or stitching) and the patient is sedated so they are not awake during the procedure.

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After the procedure, the donor will feel cramping and bloating, symptoms similar to a period, and should return to normal within 2 to 4 days. In less than 1% of cycles, a donor can be hyperstimulated, which causes severe dehydration, water retention, and flu-like symptoms. In the event this happens, a donor should contact her clinic immediately and they will provide treatment to alleviate the elevated symptoms. After the retrieval has taken place, the donor's commitment to the process has been completed.



THE DONOR PROCESS OVERVIEW AND TIMELINE

Application process:

- 1 Complete the application.
- 2 Submit application and photos (childhood, adult, family), and be prepared to answer any additional questions.
- 3 Complete a Donor Interview (either in person or via Skype depending on your location) and any requested lab work.

Once you are matched:

It is a 2-3 month time commitment. The first month is not time consuming at all. The first month typically consists of a screening appointment and potentially an additional appointment for psychological screening. The most time consuming part is typically the last 2 weeks when you are on medications and required to go to 5 to 7 doctor appointments in the early morning.

Screenings

- ➔ Psychological screening: This is a 30-minute phone call or in-person meeting plus a personality test (either the MMPI or the PAI).
- ➔ Genetic consultation: This is a 30-minute phone call to go over your complete family medical background and history.
- ➔ Physical screening with the intended parents' doctor or clinic: Blood work, genetic testing, ultrasound, and general patient information session.

Legal

- ➔ Once the medical screening results come back approved, we will start the legal contract between you and the intended parents. You will each have your own attorney to make sure that you fully understand the contract, and that you are comfortable with the terms.
- ➔ After each party signs the legal agreement, the nurse will issue a calendar with the medication dates, appointments dates, and retrieval date.



Medical

- ➔ Birth control: You will be put on the birth control pill in order to schedule your cycle.
- ➔ Injectable medications: You will take injectable medications for 8-12 days (can be longer depending on how your body stimulates).
- ➔ Trigger shot: During your doctor visits, once they determine your body is ready, they will tell you the timing for your "trigger" shot. This is the shot that gets the body ready to release the eggs. It has to be done at the EXACT time they tell you. Your retrieval will be scheduled for 36 hours following this shot.
- ➔ Every 2 to 3 days while on medication you will go to morning doctor visits. At the appointments, your hormone levels will be tested and an ultrasound will be performed to see how your body is responding to the medications.
- ➔ The medication instructions will vary depending on the type of medication being used and the clinic's protocol. It is essential that you go over the medication instructions with your nurse to ensure you understand how to take the medication properly.

Side effects: While on the medications you may experience PMS symptoms, such as bloating, cramping, abdominal discomfort. Hyperstimulation: 1-3% of donors experience hyperstimulation, which included temporary severe bloating and flu-like symptoms.

Retrieval

- ➔ This will take place anywhere between the 12th to 14th day of stimulation medications, depending on your body's reaction to the medication.
- ➔ The procedure is about 20 to 30 minutes.
- ➔ You will be placed under general anesthesia.
- ➔ The eggs are retrieved through the vagina (there is no cutting or stitching - similar to a pap smear).



MISCELLANEOUS DONOR INFORMATION

Traveling cycles

Initial screening visit will require you to fly to the intended parents' clinic (overnight or same day trip depending on locations). Please note, some clinics require a second similar trip right before medication start. Retrieval trip will be 5-10 days depending on the clinic's protocol. Intended parents will pay for all travel expenses.

- You may bring a companion for the retrieval trip.
- You will receive \$50/day food allowance for your travel days —If it is a clinic that is not local but is driving distance, you will be reimbursed mileage instead of flying.

Important things to note

- You must NOT be a smoker to be a donor.
- If you fail a drug, alcohol, or nicotine screening at any point during the cycle, it will be cancelled and you will be responsible for the costs of the screening.
- If the cycle is cancelled because you are not taking your medications properly or storing them correctly, you will not be compensated your full compensation.



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READY TO TAKE
THE NEXT STEP?



**BECOME AN
EGG DONOR**

APPLY NOW

QUESTIONS?
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