IDANT

6/16	Email to Wendy Kramer from a parent

Idant used to be registered with the state health department of New York, the state health department of California and the FDA. On May 23rd State Health Department of New York revealed that Idant now stores all of their sperm with BioGenetics Corporation's http://www.sperm1.com/biogenetics/index.html) Subsidiary, The sperm and embryo Bank of New Jersey, Inc. (http://www.sperm1.com/sebnj/index.html).

The Sperm and Embryo Bank of New Jersey confirmed that they do store semen from other sperm banks.

If you go to IDANT's website and click on "Anonymous donor application" it brings up a link that says in very small text at the top of the page "We are no longer accepting applications or donations from anonymous semen donors."

The State Health Department of New York said that all of this switched over within the last year and Idant no longer holds a "license" with the State Health Department of California, the State Health Department of New York, and is no longer registered with the FDA. As of today, Idant still represents the following their website, "IDANT is inspected and licensed by the New York and California State Departments of Health. Most states do not regulate semen banks. New York and California are among the states that do inspect and license semen banks. In fact, New York's regulations are the most stringent in the industry."

4/14	DSR Facebook Page

"I am amazed that this company has not budged at all on their policies. There is no sign that they are evolving towards a more humane approach to the needs of donors/ offspring who may want/ need more information. My son just turned 18 and we left a letter to the donor that we desired contact with him at Idant and we have no idea if the message will ever reach him. They state, "We will not disclose any confidential information about the donor to anyone unless required to do so by law". "We will, however, attempt to provide a channel through which the two parties can communicate, should we receive mutual consent from the donor and the child (or the recipient) in the future".

4/13	Email to Wendy Kramer from a former Idant donor

I was a donor at Idant in NYC and when I contacted them they said that they would only expect offspring to search for donor fathers when they are in their 20s. I imagine Idant is one of those places that wants nothing to do with getting donors and offspring to know about each other.
I got that impression from them when I had called some time ago. I had even spoken to the lead doctor there (I forgot his name), but he seemed more interested in bragging about how the sperm they store has resulted in healthy live births some 20+ years after collection.

5/17/12	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/15175

Reply from an Idant Donor:

My experience exactly with Idant, where I was a donor in the 70s. "Takes time to train new people." "Send an email." Multiple emails get no response. I am tempted to visit their office again when I am in New York and see what they have to say in person.

But then I didn't sign up for anything except to get payed, and they did pay. If what they really want to say is "we are not here to help people like you," they could come out and say it and that would be about the end of the line.

On the other hand, a donor daughter born in 1976 was able to call Idant in 2008 or 2009, with donor number, and get a good deal of information about me. And we connected on DSR. Her brother (different donor), back on the other hand again, they can't find anything, they "seem to have lost the files," or words to that effect.

4/6/10 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13115

...
According to the suit, Donna Donovan began research in 1994 to find a sperm bank and was promised by Idant Laboratories that its donors go through a rigorous screening process to ensure that they have a good genetic background and that it employed a screening program that far exceeds mandated standards.

Idant shipped semen from Donor G738 to Donovan's physician in April 1995, the suit said, and she gave birth to Brittany in January 1996.

The suit says Donna Donovan soon noticed abnormalities in her daughter's development and that she was diagnosed as a Fragile X carrier in December 1997. Further genetic testing showed that Donna Donovan was not a Fragile X carrier and that Donor G738 was a carrier.

But Donna Donovan claims that doctors at Idant continued to assure her that Brittany's developmental problems were not related to Fragile X and couldn't possibly be the result of the sperm that was purchased through Idant.
...

10/5/09 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/12175

Over the years, I have heard many stories from donors, recipients and adult donor conceived people that just can't get their donor numbers from banks like Fairfax, CLI, Idant and NECC. Sometimes they just refuse, sometimes they say that they can't find the records, and sometimes they say that the records have been destroyed. I just do not understand how they can deliberately keep people from making mutual consent contact. It is incomprehensible to me that they deliberately keep people from sharing medical information.

10/2/09 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/12166

Idant Laboratories...Use Caution
As we have seen, many sperm banks are very attentive at first, when you are trying to get pregnant. But then later on down the line when there is a medical issue, or perhaps there is a donor conceived person desperately wanting to connect with half siblings and/or their donor, the banks can refuse to give out medical information and donor numbers. Many sperm banks will not even give the donors themselves their donor numbers- so that when they need to share medical information, the banks essentially prohibit this from happening.
I have tried to help several DSR families over the years gain information from Idant Laboratories, and each and every time we seem to end up empty handed. Whether it is a donor or adult donor conceived person trying to find out their donor numbers, or a parent trying to find out medical information, Idant has just not been responsive. They will not return phone calls, faxes or emails. Then, if you can get Dr. Feldshuh on the phone, he makes promises that he doesn't keep, and then will not return any subsequent follow-up phone calls, emails or faxes. Even when you send them several times.
Here are excerpts from a letter just written to Dr. Feldshuh by the mother of an adult donor conceived person, who has been trying to get the donor number she used (as well as medical information on the donor) so that her son can check to see if others are posted on the DSR:
"You have records of calls and other correspondence from previous years as well as notes from phone calls and faxes and letters from both Wendy Kramer and myself throughout this year, all asking for information on my son's donor father.
It is despicable that after essentially saying, ‘we have searched high and low and cannot find any records for or about you/your donor.’
Shameful to have ended my search with such a cavalier and unacceptable response.
It is hard to believe that you are in the business of making lives and have responsibility for providing accurate and current health and genetic information about your donors.
It is unconscionable that you do not retain and update important information about donors and their offspring.
A very disturbing ending to what was a joyful association with your group."

4/8/09	Full article: http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20227032.400-sperm-bank-sued-under-product-liability-law.html

New Scientist Article on Idant Case
Sperm bank sued under product liability law
* 08 April 2009
SPERM should be subject to the same product liability laws as car brakes, according to a US judge who has given a teenager with severe learning disabilities the go-ahead to sue the sperm bank that provided her with a biological father.
Brittany Donovan, now 13 years old, was born with fragile X syndrome, a genetic disorder causing mental impairment and carried on the X chromosome. She is now suing the sperm bank, Idant Laboratories of New York, under a product liability law more commonly associated with manufacturing defects, such as faulty car brakes.
Donovan does not have to show that Idant was negligent, only that the sperm it provided was unsafe and caused injury. "It doesn't matter how much care was taken," says Daniel Thistle, the lawyer representing Donovan, based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Genetic tests have revealed that she inherited the disorder from her biological father.
Donovan was conceived in Pennsylvania, where a "blood shield law" protects sellers of human bodily material from product liability suits. In New York state, however, sellers are not protected by any such law. On 31 March, federal judge Thomas O'Neill ruled that Donovan's case should be tried in New York.
Wendy Kramer of the Donor Sibling Registry, which helps people conceived through donor gametes find genetic relatives, suspects other sperm recipients may try to sue. "This could open the floodgates," she says.

4/2/09	Full article: http://www.law.com/jsp/article.jsp?id=1202429596840

Sperm Banks Can Be Sued Under Product Liability Laws, Federal Judge Rules
April 2, 2009. The Legal Intelligencer
In the first decision of its kind, a federal judge has ruled that a sperm bank may be sued under product liability laws for failing to detect that a sperm donor had a genetic defect.
In his 23-page opinion in Donovan v. Idant Laboratories, Senior U.S. District Judge Thomas N. O'Neill Jr. cleared the way for a 13-year-old mentally retarded girl from Pennsylvania to sue a New York sperm bank under the theory that the sperm used to conceive her had a defect known as "Fragile X," a mutation known to cause a syndrome of maladies that include mental retardation and behavioral disorders. "Under New York law, the sale of sperm is considered a product and is subject to strict liability," O'Neill wrote.
The ruling is a victory for plaintiffs attorney Daniel L. Thistle and clears the way for Brittany Donovan of Philadelphia to pursue both tort and contract claims against the New York sperm bank that sold sperm to her mother in 1995.
But O'Neill dismissed all claims brought by her mother, Donna Donovan, after finding that the statute of limitations had long expired because genetic tests showed in 1998 that the sperm donor was the source of the Fragile X genetic defect in her daughter.
Brittany Donovan's claims, however, are still viable, O'Neill found, because the Pennsylvania Minors Tolling Statute provides that the clock does not begin to run until two years after the minor reaches the age of 18.
According to the suit, Donna Donovan began research in 1994 to find a sperm bank and was promised by Idant Laboratories that its donors go through a rigorous screening process to ensure that they have a good genetic background and that it employed a screening program that far exceeds mandated standards. Idant shipped semen from Donor G738 to Donovan's physician in April 1995, and she gave birth to Brittany in January 1996.
The suit says Donna Donovan soon noticed abnormalities in her daughter's development and that she was diagnosed as a Fragile X carrier in December 1997. Further genetic testing showed that Donna Donovan was not a Fragile X carrier and that Donor G738 was a carrier.
But Donna Donovan claims that doctors at Idant continued to assure her that Brittany's developmental problems were not related to Fragile X and couldn't possibly be the result of the sperm that was purchased through Idant. Plaintiffs attorney Thistle argued in court papers that it was not until 2008, when Donovan saw a report in The American Journal of Medical Genetics, that she knew her daughter's problems were related to the sperm donor's genetic defect.
But Idant's lawyer, M. Douglas Eisler successfully argued that Donna Donovan had waited too long to sue.
Thistle urged the judge to apply the discovery rule and to toll the statute of limitations because of the

fraudulent concealment by Idant. But O'Neill found that Donovan should never have relied on Idant's doctors. "Common sense would cause a reasonable person to question statements in the letters from Idant's doctors regarding its liability especially in light of the facts that Brittany had been diagnosed by an independent hospital and that an independent laboratory had found a genetic link between the donor genes and Brittany's Fragile X carrier status," O'Neill wrote.

The fact that Idant's doctors proposed alternative explanations for Brittany's problems cannot be considered fraudulent concealment, O'Neill found. "To hold otherwise would be to permit tolling for fraudulent concealment every time a defendant offered a different explanation of events which caused it to believe that it was not at fault. That is an untenable extension of the fraudulent concealment doctrine," O'Neill wrote.

But Thistle won the much more significant legal battle over which state's laws should apply -- Pennsylvania's or New York's. For a case involving sperm, the differences between Pennsylvania and New York tort law are significant. Both states have enacted so-called "blood shield statutes" that prohibit products liability suits stemming from blood or blood products. But while Pennsylvania's blood shield statute includes human tissues other than blood, New York's statute includes only blood and its derivatives.

O'Neill found that there was a "true conflict" between the laws of the two states because "semen is not a blood derivative," and Brittany Donovan would therefore have a valid cause of action under New York law, but not under Pennsylvania law. Thistle argued that New York law should apply because New York's interest in regulating its corporations outweighed Pennsylvania's interest in providing redress for wrongs committed against one of its citizens. Eisler argued that Pennsylvania law should apply because the semen was sold to be used by Donna Donovan in Pennsylvania and the injury she alleges took place in Pennsylvania.

O'Neill sided with Thistle, saying that since most of the significant conduct took place in New York -- including the screening of the sperm donor and the formation of the contract -- New York had a stronger interest in seeing its laws applied. "New York has a strong policy incentive to regulate the sperm banks in its state," O'Neill wrote.

O'Neill found that Brittany Donovan may have valid contract claims for breach of implied and express warranties, but that Thistle must first cure a defect on the issue of standing by showing in an amended complaint that she is an "intended third-party beneficiary" of the contract between her mother and Idant.

Turning to the strict liability claim, O'Neill rejected the defense argument that New York would not allow a claim premised on allegedly defective sperm.

Although other states' blood shield laws and Section 19 of the Restatement (Third) of Torts all say that human tissue and organs are included in the list of products that are exempted from strict liability law, O'Neill found that "the relevant New York statute does not and no case law has extended the statute to also exempt human tissues like sperm."

11/4/08	Email to Wendy Kramer

I was a sperm donor several times in 1977 with Idant Corp. I believe that I have five unknown children from that era, presumably born in 1977 or 1978.

A few years later I went back to Idant Corp. A new group had taken over the management and all the old records had been thrown out. They had no record of my ever having been there and no way to know how my sperm had been used or the names of the doctors involved.

8/4/08	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10954

A member recently wrote to ask about Fairfax Cryobank and which other clinics they have bought up or sold sperm for. Here is the information that we've collected about who shares/sells/buys sperm:

-Idant donor numbers in the 100's begin with A, in the 200's begin with B, in the 300's begin with C, in the 400's begin with D, in the 500's begin with E, in the 600's begin with F, in the 700's begin with G, in the 800's begin with H.

-A donor conceived person who's mom used NYU in the 1970's was told by them, as well as Idant, that there were only about 3 or 4 places that were even in business and serving as sperm donors in NY in the early 1970s. CLI (yes, formerly known as Genetic Labs) was one of them. I spoke to someone at CLI as well, and they confirmed for me that they
indeed were shipping specimens to NY in the early 1970s and that they still do maintain records from the 1970s.

7/30/08 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10935

Idant Laboratories is privileged to state that it is the only sperm bank in the United States that has not one, but two recorded successful pregnancies using frozen sperm stored for 29 years and almost 22 years. On December 10, 1994, from an insemination procedure utilizing sperm that had been banked with Idant since April 1972, a little girl was born. Even more remarkable was the fact that on January 3, 2002, a son was born to the same couple using frozen sperm stored for 29 years.

2/21/08 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10124

Re: Children of Sperm Donor Have Rights, Too
The problem was that Idant ignored the family's requests for assistance. They also ignored my requests on behalf of the family.
Wendy
--- In DonorSiblingRegistry d wrote:
> I wanted to comment on one paragraph in the news article.
> There is no genetic test available for autism. Research studies to
> locate the genetic origin are still in progress. While sperm banks can
> be faulted for a number of things, this one is not one.
> Assuming there is a genetic link to the donor, it is entirely possible
> for there to have been no family history of autism and no way to
> predict this would happen.
> >
> > Idant Laboratories, reports the Post, fails to test sperm donors for
> > some sexually transmitted and genetic diseases. One woman who used
> > sperm from Idant Laboratories contacted the agency when she learned
> > that her own son, and the child of another family that used the same
> > donor, both suffered from autism.

2/20/08 Full article:
http://www.townhall.com/Columnists/MaggieGallagher/2008/02/20/children_of_sperm_donors_have_rights,_too

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2/19/08 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10088

DON'T BANK ON NYC'S BAD SEED
By JANON FISHER
February 17, 2008 -- Conditions at New York City sperm banks are inconceivably bad - with some offices not testing samples for some diseases, and others using sperm from donors who engaged in high-risk sexual behavior.
Despite the shocking violations, the reproductive-tissue storage facilities are relatively unchecked by state regulators, who haven't inspected four of the city's six licensed sperm banks since 2004.
In one instance, a couple is suing a clinic for $3 million for misplacing six embryos. Another woman has posed serious questions about a sperm sample from another clinic, which resulted in an autistic child.
"It's more evidence that nobody's watching," said Wendy Kramer, director of the Donor Sibling Registry, a group that tries to connect offspring of donor sperm. "That is why it's an industry that's completely chaotic."
About 30,000 people use sperm banks in New York each year. Idant Laboratories, located at 350 Fifth Ave., failed to pass along information about "high-risk social and sexual behavior" of a donor to a woman seeking in vitro fertilization, records from the May 2004 inspection show. The sperm bank, which was shut down temporarily by the state for the same violation in 1995, claims that the woman was aware of the donor's sketchy history, but that they had failed to document her written consent. The clinic also ignored a state requirement that sperm donors be tested before donating and again six months after, to ensure they were not

carrying any sexually transmitted or genetic diseases. Idant correction reports show that they have since improved their record keeping. The same facility settled a suit filed against it by a white woman who gave birth to a black baby in the 1990s. Director Joseph Feldschuh said the state inspected again in 2006 and found no deficiencies. He said that no report or record exists of the bank's better grade. The state Department of Health says that it had inspected Idant's blood bank more recently, but that the sperm bank hasn't been inspected since 2004. There have also been complaints about unresponsive or unhelpful clinics. One woman - the mother of an autistic boy, who got her sperm from Idant - was repeatedly refused information on the donor. Another family also had an autistic child using the same sperm, she says. When the woman asked the bank to contact the donor on her behalf, they refused because she was told that the condition was not life-threatening. "I understand and value the importance of confidentiality . . . however, there may be related families who would like to help each other," she wrote by e-mail. Other state reports showed lapses in testing donor sperm. The Sperm Bank of New York failed to test all donors for hepatitis B, state inspectors found during a 2004 inspection. Albert Anouna, the bank's director, said that they now test all donors for the liver disease. Park Avenue Fertility director Nancee Novak accused the state of paying obsessive attention to minor problems. The state found in November 2005 that Novak's facility did not properly calibrate their thermometers. Sperm must be kept at minus-202 degrees. "If someone told you that you had no deficiencies, they're probably lying," Novak said. "If there is an un-initialed form somewhere, they will find it." janon.fisher@nypost.com

2/19/08	Email to Wendy Kramer
-------------- Response -------------- I assessed the sperm specimens for viability/motility etc. The wife of the owner was managing it, the place was dirty, disorganized and very unprofessional. -------------- Original message -------------- From: wendy kramer <burlwindow741@yahoo.com> Ha! What did you do there? Did they seem dishonest? Unorganized? -------------- Response -------------- Hi, Wendy- An interesting article. I worked for Idant briefly, years ago, (in their lab)and it was one of the more bizarre and gross experiences I have had in my work life. -------------- Original message -------------- From: "Wendy" <burlwindow741@yahoo.com> DON'T BANK ON NYC'S BAD SEED By JANON FISHER February 17, 2008 -- Conditions at New York City sperm banks are inconceivably bad - with some offices not testing samples for some diseases, and others using sperm from donors who engaged in high-risk sexual behavior. Despite the shocking violations, the reproductive- tissue storage facilities are relatively unchecked by state regulators, who haven't inspected four of the city's six licensed sperm banks since 2004. In one instance, a couple is suing a clinic for $3 million for misplacing six embryos. Another woman has posed serious questions about a sperm sample from another clinic, which resulted in an autistic child. "It's more evidence that nobody's watching," said Wendy Kramer, director of the Donor Sibling Registry, a group that tries to connect offspring of donor sperm. "That is why it's an industry that's completely chaotic." About 30,000 people u se sperm banks in New York each year. Idant Laboratories, located at 350 Fifth Ave., failed to pass along information about "high-risk social and sexual behavior" of a donor to a woman seeking in vitro fertilization, records from the May 2004 inspection

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There have also been complaints about unresponsive or unhelpful clinics.

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Another family also had an autistic child using the same sperm, she says. When the woman asked the bank to contact the donor on her behalf, they refused because she was told that the condition was not life-threatening.

"I understand and value the importance of confidentiality . . .however, there may be related families who would like to help each other," she wrote by e-mail.

Other state reports showed lapses in testing donor sperm.

The Sperm Bank of New York failed to test al l donors for hepatitis B, state inspectors found during a 2004 inspection.

Albert Anouna, the bank's director, said that they now test all donors for the liver disease.

Park Avenue Fertility director Nancee Novak accused the state of paying obsessive attention to minor problems. The state found in November 2005 that Novak's facility did not properly calibrate their thermometers. Sperm must be kept at minus-202 degrees.

"If someone told you that you had no deficiencies, they're probably lying," Novak said. "If there is an un-initialed form somewhere, they will find it."

2/14/08	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10040

Last year I tried to contact Idant on behalf of a former client with a child with some pretty serious medical issues. They never responded to my letter, or her. It was extremely distressing. Also, we were also on a talk show with their director who felt very strongly about non disclosure. He felt that families should keep the donor conception a secret.

2/14/08	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10039

I am currently trying to find a donor. I have narrowed it down to two. One is at Idant Laboratories which I have not had a good experience with so far on the phone and requesting long profile on the donor. Have anyone else had this problem? Are they not a good bank to work with? The other one is from Biogenetics which is triple the price of Idant. I want to save as much money as possible but wonder if the stress from working with an unfriendly bank would do more harm than forking out the extra money. I am looking for a Puerto Rican donor so that and those two banks ended up being my only option at this point.

2/13/08	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/9988

A donor conceived person who's mom used NYU in the 1970's was told by them, as well as Idant, that, "there were only about 3 or 4 places that were even in "business" and serving as sperm donors in NY in the early 1970s. CLI (yes, formerly known as Genetic Labs) was one of them. I spoke to someone at CLI as well, and they confirmed for me that they indeed were shipping specimens to NY in the early 1970s and that they still do maintain records from the 1970s."

10/20/07	Email to Wendy Kramer

My only complaint about Idant in New York is that it only provided one side of one 8.5 x 11" piece of paper of information of my daughter's biological father. Though this might have been common practice in 1989 when she was conceived.

6/27/07	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/8622

I'm just curious if children conceived using sperm from a certain sperm bank are more likely to match up with their donor or half-sibs than children conceived using other sperm banks? I've been registered on the Registry for almost a year now and have had no matches of any kind. I got my donor sperm from the Idant Bank in N.Y. {Note from Wendy: One reason may be that Idant still counsels couples to never tell their child that they are donor conceived. I know this because we were on a tv show with their Director, as well as hearing from folks who were counseled in this way.}

8/30/05	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/987

Yes, this was the infamous UC Irvine scandal. Here is a link to the Orange County reports that led to the 1996 Pulitzer Prize:
{http://www.pulitzer.org/year/1996/investigative-reporting/works/1104.html}
[or http://tinyurl.com/cp5xg]
You don't hear much anymore about misdeeds in the infertility business recently but there were a rash of them around ten years ago, including several Manhattan clinics shut down by the NY Board of Health after raids for not testing sperm, the temporary license revocation of Idant's president Feldschuh, the AIDS cases surrounding Dr. Korn's practice in Vancouver, the deceptive responses of CCB's denial of responsibility for a DI child's kidney disease, and several individual suits against clinics for replacing a husband's treated semen with an anonymous donor's (in the US, the UK, and the Netherlands). In such an unregulated business, the possibility for such mistakes and coverups is high. However, the Cecil Jacobsen case in Virginia seems to have been the worst of all.
--- In DSR_Discussion, ----- wrote:

> There was a NY doc who did this as well (a Law and Order episode about it), and I think a doctor/fertility clinic in Orange County, CA.
> -----Original Message-----
> From -----
> UK Channel 4 22:00, Tuesday 30th August
> "The story of a doctor supplying fertility treatment in Virginia, who
> concealed a dark secret. While he claimed to be able to match his
> patients with donors from backgrounds of their choosing, in reality he
> provided all the sperm produced by the clinic personally - and is
> believed to have fathered 75 children."

8/28/05	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/961

My minister was a sperm donor. Actually, he's the former minister of an Interfaith (non-religious) church I used to attend before I moved. I admire him very much, love him. He "married" me and my current husband. I knew he donated, because I shared about doing DI for Nate, and then he told me. In a whisper. This was about 4 or 5 years ago. I encouraged him to let himself be known to any offspring. He did call Idant, but of course they refused to give info. to anyone who called enquiring about him. Well, I just ran into him, and he is writing a novel about DI half-sibs who meet each other, and then their bio dad. It was interesting to talk to him about it; he thought it was illegal for sperm banks to have identifiable donors. I set him straight on that!

8/19/05	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/893

18 years ago, CCB was one of the major sperm banks (likewise Idant) that raised loud objections to the idea that The Sperm Bank of California had the courage to buck the century-old system of total anonymity with its Identity Release Donors. Cappy Rothman was the biggest critic of it at that time. Like so many banks at that time, any potential donor that mentioned an interest in these future children, or even saw them as "their" genetic children were automatically screened out of the programs. Remember in those days not so long ago, only married couples were allowed access to donor insemination and banks actively promoted secrecy within

families. Single women and lesbians resorted to other methods not sanctioned by infertility clinics. When CCB and Xytex began losing recipients who went over to TSBC, they started to realize that their clients were not going to put up with their intimidation, strict rules, and arrogance. It began known that there was another bank that actually listened to infertile people and offered them CHOICES. It wasn't until TSBC grew in popularity because of their willingness to be covered in the media, that other sperm banks began to offer some choices, although never on the level of openness that TSBC's "Yes Donors" program offers.

I would imagine that CCB is not contacting the donors from the earlier programs before they instituted their "Willing to be Known" donor program, which is a very weak version of Identity Release. Xytex appeared to have a growing level of openness and willingness to help DI children, but it looks like they are now regressing to the norm.

I am not pushing TSBC here. I don't like the fact that they still carry some "No Donors." Although I advocate choice, I don't believe that choice means ID Release versus anonymous donors. The choice should be up to the DI person conceived to make decisions about whether or not to contact his/her genetic donor.

For TSBC to offer the choice of anonymous donors is to deny the person conceived any right to choose to make connections to his/her genealogical heritage. It's not the same as someone having no choice because they were born through a private affair. In DI, society is directly involved with the conception and it is controlled by professionals who swear an oath to "Do No Harm." The assumption of harm must be taken since there is no proof that secrecy doesn't do harm. It is not up to us to prove that secrecy does harm. We DI adults know that it does. Rather it is up to the profession to prove that it doesn't, which they can't because secrecy prevents the openness necessary to make any legitimate study. In any other medical procedure, there is an explicit obligation to examine the outcome to ensure that there is no harm, or that the good of the procedure outweighs the harm. With DI we can't know that without first eliminating secrecy and especially anonymity. The answers must come from the donor conceived person himself, not as interpreted by his parents or his parents' fertility doctor. The medical profession washes its hands of responsibility for creating life in this manner by claiming that the birth of a baby is a sign of DI success. We all know that this is an extremely narrow view that dismisses the importance of the sociological and psychological impact of DI on parents, donors, DI children, DI adults as well as the spouses of DI adults and their children.

11/26/04 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/3793

Like you, I signed the contract without understanding the full impact of the anonymous donor situation (my son is 8 now). Had I found this website prior to my choosing Idant Laboratories I would have learned that Idant is an anonymous donor bank (I assumed they all were) and that I could have found ones that has some sort of open policy, or even had more info like pictures or a video or anything besides the mini questionnaire that we got.

6/23/03 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/1338

Just thought you all might be interested in what I found out from Idant Laboratories about how they limit the number of donor's offspring from the different areas they serve. They look at the population of the city or town and limit 3 offspring per 10,000 people. This means 5 offspring per 10,000-50,000, and 20 per 500,000 to 1,000,000. They will take contact information from the offspring (or parents if the offspring is a minor) and put the info in the donor's file with a note that there is an interest to be contacted, should the donor ever check in with bank.

5/26/03 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/915

It wasn't just Dr. Feldschuh's personal beliefs: it is the policy of Idant.

Altho it's been a while since I watched the John Walsh Show segment, Dr. Feldschuh stated that in the many years of Idant's existence, only two clients had EVER come back and asked for mutual consent contact with their donors.

Idant believes secrecy is best.