



On the path to a
brighter future

HUMBER
thestar.com

Plan your weekend
TORONTO.com

10° Toronto

[Sign In](#)

HEALTH & WELLNESS

HOME
NEWS
YOUR TORONTO
OPINION
SPORTS
BUSINESS
ENTERTAINMENT
LIFE
Technology
Food & Wine
Travel
Fashion & Style
Homes
Health & Wellness
Parent
AUTOS
PHOTOS
DIVERSIONS
CLASSIFIEDS
OBITUARIES

Life / Health & Wellness

U.S. sperm bank admits it doesn't verify donor information

A U.S. sperm bank denies misleading an Ontario couple about their donor, but says it doesn't verify whether donors provide it with accurate information.

[Tweet](#) 22

8+1

0 reddit this!



San Francisco lawyer Nancy Hersh is representing about 15 other clients who might be joining the lawsuit.

By: [Theresa Boyle](#) Health, Published on Thu Apr 09 2015



Bell Media parts ways with president Kevin Crull



Yazidi girls kidnapped by Islamic State return traumatized



Stephen Harper hailed Mike Duffy as 'great' senator, trial hears

The president of a U.S. sperm bank denies his company misled a Port Hope couple about their sperm donor, but acknowledges it does not corroborate personal information provided by donors.

"He reported a good health history and stated in his application that he had no physical or medical impairments. This information was passed on to the couple, who were clearly informed the representations were reported by the donor and were not verified by Xytex," Kevin O'Brien wrote in an open letter on the company's website.

The Atlanta-based company is at the centre of a [lawsuit](#) filed last weekend by Angela Collins and Margaret Elizabeth Hanson who charge they were deceived about their donor having schizophrenia, being a college dropout and having a criminal background.

The donor is alleged to have produced 36 offspring from at least 15 women.

The allegations have not been proven in court.

The women say they selected Donor 9623 from Xytex's catalogue of prospective donors because he was touted as being its "best donor," with good health, a high IQ and multiple university degrees.

The mothers say that because of a confidentiality breach by the company, they learned the anonymous donor is actually a man named Chris Aggeles. They say they investigated Aggeles on the Internet and were stunned to learn he has a serious mental illness, was charged with a crime (burglary) and never made it through college. They



HUMBER thestar.com

Top News

Nurse charged after woman allegedly taken off life support without consent

Yazidi girls kidnapped by Islamic State return traumatized

Meridian Credit Union takes mortgage rates to historic new low

Young closer Miguel Castro shuts down Yankees: Griffin

Toronto church says it won't allow Ukrainian-born pianist to perform

Stephen Harper hailed Mike Duffy as 'great' senator, trial hears

New police dash cam video emerges in South Carolina shooting

Toronto officer's Instagram photos stir concern



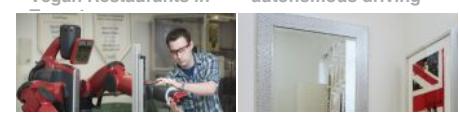
International students receive a warm welcome



Toronto.com: Best Vegan Restaurants in



Five degrees of autonomous driving



Students take hold of our robotic future



Busy bathroom gets pretty and practical

also allege a photo they received of him was doctored to remove a facial mole.

Xytex has suggested there was no security breach.

Aggeles is also named in the lawsuit. His lawyer, James Johnson, said the allegations are without merit and that he is seeking to have the lawsuit dismissed.

O'Brien insists Xytex never misled the couple.

"We want to assure you that is simply not true. We have conducted a careful review of our records and the claims by the couple in question do not reflect the representations provided to Xytex," his letter states.

The donor underwent a standard medical exam and provided extensive personal health information, O'Brien writes, adding that the company has a thorough vetting process and rejects 99 per cent of donor applicants.

The couple's lawyer, San Francisco-based Nancy Hersh, points out that the letter doesn't actually dispute that Aggeles has a serious mental illness, a criminal history and no degrees.

"I see nothing in what he has posted on the Xytex website to indicate that information that the women (found) — which was also available to them — is untrue," she said.

Sperm banks should do more to investigate the backgrounds of donors, Hersh said, adding that they should do a review of medical records.

"They have a duty to the people with whom they deal to make a reasonable investigation. Did they do anything besides rely upon the information provided by the donor applicant?" she asked.

O'Brien's letter says the donor provided the company with signed photos of himself that were passed to the couple without alteration. The donor also provided Xytex with copies of his undergraduate and graduate degrees.

But Wendy Kramer, director of the U.S. Donor Sibling Registry, said there are no checks and balances in place to ensure donors don't doctor photos or fabricate degrees.

"It's not good enough to rely on the honour system," she said.

The registry connects siblings and family members.

Kramer said donors are usually young men in post-secondary school who donate their semen because they need money. They can make \$100 (U.S.) for each donation.

"They might not tell the truth for fear they won't get into the program," she said.

O'Brien says Xytex upholds the highest practices and plans to fight the lawsuit.

"We stand by the process we followed and intend to vigorously defend ourselves against the allegations in the lawsuit," he writes.

The company's website does include a footnote with this disclaimer: "It is important to note that the medical history provided by the donor is not validated by reviewing the donor's or his family's private medical records."

Toronto fertility lawyer Sara Cohen said the court will need to determine if, by advising purchasers of the risks and the limitations to the screening provided, a sperm bank is able to limit its liability.

More on thestar.com



Fresh Bites: Tomatillos add fresh zip to anything Mexican

How to make Jamie Kennedy's famous Fren...



The Real Dirt: Blight puts garden tomatoes in jeopardy



Jamie Kennedy: a restaurant era comes to...

Most Popular

Mad Men's Jon Hamm accused in fraternity hazing

Ted Rogers statue leaves sour taste among Blue Jays fans |

Instagram account @TTCWomen raises privacy concerns |

Nurse charged after woman allegedly taken off life support without consent

Toronto officer's Instagram photos stir concern

Comics

Toronto church says it won't allow Ukrainian-born pianist to perform |

Three games in, and Castro is Jays' new closer: Griffin |

Yazidi girls kidnapped by Islamic State return traumatized

Chaos as Walmart shoppers swarm armed robber in Hamilton

On Twitter

Life

Tweets from a list by TorontoStar

 **Toronto Star Life** 3h
@TorontoStarLife

Tim Hortons introduces #Nutella-filled baked goods

on.thestar.com/1IxCfae ow.ly/i/aiKtA



standards outlined in our [Community Code of Conduct](#). For further information, including our legal guidelines, please see our full website [Terms and Conditions](#).

There are 5 comments. [Show comments.](#)



eFax® [FREE 30-DAY TRIAL ▶](#)

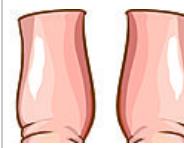
From around the web



How Can Compression Legwear Relieve Leg Pain?
FUTURO Brand



18,000-Acre Lake Tohopekaliga is a Bass Fishing Mecca Experience Kissimmee



What are the symptoms of RA?
Health Central



Gorgeous Golfers Who Appeared in Sports Illustrated's...
Golf.com

Recommended by

**ANOTHER REASON
TO LOVE TAX SEASON.
FAX YOUR TAXES BY EMAIL!**

eFax

[FREE 30-DAY TRIAL ▶](#)



Net work
Athabasca's online executive MBA...



No Foolin'
Unbelievable rates. Book your getaway!



Cataract surgery
"Cataracts are a common, painless..."



Launch code
Queen's Master of Entrepreneurship and...



HowTo: Tofu Pizza
PHOTOS: A George Brown College culinary...



The Leading Edge
Brock University's goodman School of...

[thestar.com](#)

News
Your Toronto
Opinion
Sports
Business
Entertainment
Life
Diversions
Classifieds
Site Map

[Wheels.ca](#)
Insurance Hotline
New in Homes
Star Store
Blogs
Contests
Lottery Results
Obituaries
Corrections
Public Editor

Toronto Star Newspapers Ltd.

About
Atkinson Principles
Statement of Principles
Get Home Delivery
My Subscription
Contact Us
Contact Webmaster
FAQ
News Releases
Star Internships

Advertise with us

Advertising Terms
Mediakit
Online Advertising
Print Advertising
Special Features

Initiatives

Santa Claus Fund
Fresh Air Fund
Speakers Bureau
Classroom Connection
Pages of the Past
Report on Community Giving

Connect with Us

RSS feeds
Twitter Updates
News Alerts
Newsletters
Mobile Devices

