

## HOW DO YOU START THE DISCUSSION WITH A KNOWN DONOR?

*A topic of conversation on the Choice Mom discussion board sometimes includes newcomers wondering how to approach an old friend and ask about becoming her known donor. And then what happens if he says yes?*

*As one woman wrote: "How do you get this process started? I would imagine both of us getting a physical examination, test for STDs, for starters. Second, after reading most of Mikki's book, it suggests to have an agreement drawn for both the mother and donor stating expectations and obligations as a parent/donor. It notes that even though two people are good friends and have a verbal understanding, it is highly suggested to have a contract/agreement. Can anyone give me guidance as to what I need to have outlined, wants/not want/etc.?"*

*Jessica is one woman who posted with comprehensive questions that she intended to talk over with her known donor, and put into contract form. She used them to help guide a spontaneous conversation with some candidates, and as an email to one who lived overseas. We thank her for giving permission to reprint her great series of questions here.*

1. Would you be interested in being a donor for insemination for me to become pregnant? If yes, please explain the reasons why you would be willing to do this.
2. What are your motivations to be a donor with me? Are you hoping this act would help to develop a stronger relationship with me over time? Knowing that we may never form a romantic relationship would you still want to become a donor to my child?
3. Please reflect and describe in your own words how you think becoming a donor will affect our relationship? (Both positive and negative)
4. Would you be able to commit two donations a month until I conceived? (Costs/expenses would be covered by me)
5. Are you willing to get an HIV/AIDS and other STD test and share your results with me before proceeding?
6. Would you have a problem with donating through insemination rather than through sexual intercourse?
7. During the pregnancy, how much involvement would you like? Would you be interested in attending Lamaze classes with me? Would you want to be involved in the various doctors' visits, ultrasounds, etc. during the pregnancy?
8. Please describe how you would feel if I chose not to involve you in the above aspects of the pregnancy.
9. Please describe whether or not you would want to be in the room when the child is delivered. If I decided that I did not want you in the delivery room, how would you feel?
10. Would you be willing to sign a legal document indicating both of our intentions, expectations and responsibility in conceiving the child?
11. How would you feel about the child taking my name and not yours?

12. How would you feel about having no decision in naming the child?
13. How would you feel if I left the child's birth certificate blank on the 'father' line?
14. In your own words describe the type of involvement and/or relationship you would like to have with the child.
15. How would you describe your interest in wanting to be involved in the child's life: father, biological father only with no involvement, uncle, friend, acquaintance, stranger, When the child is 18 possible relationship or willing to meet the child, No involvement even when the child turns 18 (would like the identity to remain anonymous forever)
16. If you are interested in knowing the child, how often would you like to be involved: Daily, Weekly, Monthly, A few times a year, Once a year, Not until the child is 18 years old, Never
17. Would you want visitation rights? How would you feel if I decided to take full responsibility of the child asking for no child support, but also no or limited visitation on your side?
18. Based on your interest in the involvement of the child and based on the type of relationship you would like to create, what is your opinion on child support and the extent of your responsibility?
19. How would you feel if I moved with the child allowing you with little to no visitation?
20. Would you be willing to sign an agreement allowing me to travel abroad with the child at anytime during the child's life?
21. Depending on the extent of your desire to be involved in the child's life, to what extent would you involve your own family: parents, siblings, etc.?
22. How do you think your family will feel knowing you decided to be a donor? How much involvement do you think your family will want in the child's life?
23. What aspects of you (culture, tradition, family, etc) do you want or would like to share with the child?
24. What role would you like to play in terms of the decisions that may affect the child's life (ie. School, language, extra curricular activities, travel, discipline, medical, nutrition, religion)?
25. How would you feel with me being the sole parent and disciplinarian in the decisions and life of the child? Would you be willing to relinquish all control of the child's upbringing?
26. What might you feel compelled to do or say if I make decisions about the child's upbringing that you disagree with?
27. If I decided to have another child, would you be willing to donate again?
28. How would you feel if I was dating someone? How would you feel if I married in the future and my partner agreed to adopt my child/children?
29. Are you willing to create a family history and medical background history for the child?
30. Are you willing to supply photos and stories about your family for the child's curiosity?

One helpful woman pointed out to Jessica: There are a lot of questions about how the donor might feel emotionally now and later - and it's important to know how you really feel, or think you could potentially feel about situations later as well.