

Frozen Embryo Adoption

In Vitro Fertilization and Frozen Embryo Adoption

The relatively new fertility industry now has a problem: They have about 400,000 human embryos created during *in vitro* fertilization frozen in storage. America has the largest population of frozen human embryos in the world. Of the estimated 400,000 frozen and stored embryonic humans, most of these are designated for future attempts for pregnancy, and approximately 2.8% (about 11,000) have been donated with parental consent for destructive embryonic stem cell research.

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When couples utilize *in vitro* fertilization to create offspring, more embryos are created than the couple plans to implant at the time. Because the cost of the procedure is so high, many eggs are fertilized at once. The fertility doctors will then select the healthiest embryos to implant in the mother's womb. The remainder are then frozen and often stored, sometimes considered abandoned or "left-over." "None of us really want to hang on to these embryos in perpetuity," said David Hoffman, a fertility doctor and past president of the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology. Among those embryos available for research, some have been in storage for more than a decade and were frozen using techniques that are less sophisticated than current scientific practices, therefore rendering them useless either for research or implantation. These embryos unfortunately have been created without much forethought.

Snowflake Embryo Adoption Program

Nightlight Christian Adoption Agency in California has found a solution to the abundance of frozen human embryos. Snowflakes Embryo Adoption Program (www.Snowflakes.org or 714-278-1020) encourages frozen embryo adoption: Families can adopt these frozen embryos from the biological families who created them. The adoptive mom would then become pregnant with her own adopted child. This opportunity offers a life-affirming alternative to letting the embryos languish indefinitely, or killing the embryos by disposal or through destructive research. These lives must be respected, no matter how small.

JJ & Tracy's Story

JJ and Tracy met in college and have been married for 10 years now. After dealing with infertility for some time, they were ready to look into adoption over *in vitro* fertilization. However, they wanted to experience pregnancy and be responsible for the prenatal care of their baby. Embryo adoption provided them a way to be both adoptive and birth parents. They also believed that God had chosen them to be an instrument on behalf of those preborn babies.

A Texas adoption agency performed a home study to determine that JJ and Tracy would provide a safe home. Working through the Nightlight Christian Adoption Agency, they petitioned the genetic family, forwarded an autobiography and a photo collage. After several months, Nightlight matched them with a genetic couple who



responded with pictures of their family and their medical background information.

On August 5, 2004, JJ and Tracy underwent their first embryo transfer, implanting three embryos. Then, on August 19, doctors confirmed that one of the embryos survived the transfer, and Tracy was pregnant. Jack Lewis Jones, III, aka Trey, was born on April 25, 2005. On May 24, 2005, JJ and Tracy met with President Bush at the White House and participated in his press conference during which he promoted the ethical forms of adult stem cell research and decried destructive embryonic stem cell research. For more information on JJ and Tracy's story, visit www.jjandtracy.com.

This information has been provided by the Texas Right to Life Educational Fund. For more information, contact us at the following address:



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