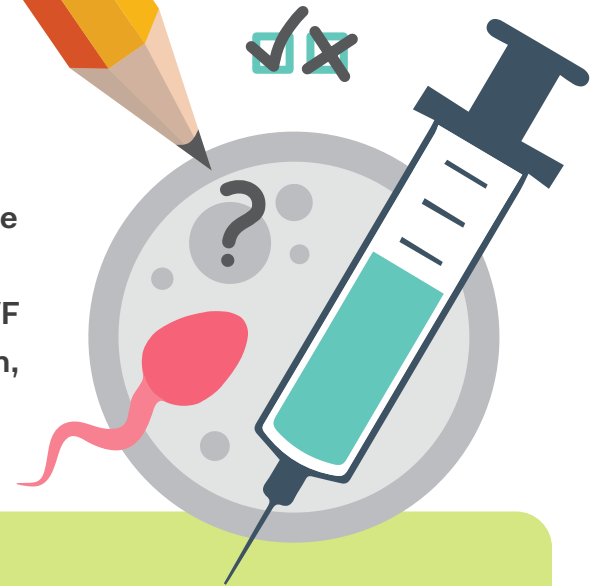


# Is In Vitro Fertilization Ethical?

In vitro fertilization (IVF) has been permitted in Canada since the *Assisted Human Reproduction Act* was passed in 2004. Since then, over 8 million babies have been born through IVF around the world. Is IVF simply another way to have children, or are there other major ethical considerations involved?



## Starting Point:

Children are a gift from God, and His design for how they come into existence is good. From the moment of fertilization, each embryo is a unique human being and has the same moral status as any other human being. Children are meant to be born to and cared for by their biological parents whenever possible.

## Ethical Issues:

- > Typically, IVF procedures create more embryos than necessary, leading to aborting, freezing, discarding, or experimenting on “extra” embryos. These practices destroy human life and must not be condoned.
- > Parents and doctors can identify embryos with various genetic conditions through medical testing, and often destroy embryos with a genetic condition. This treats some lives as more valuable than others based on perceived ability or disability.
- > Children created by IVF are often created using anonymous sperm and egg donations and are then cut off from knowing their biological origins. Even if the donor’s identity is known, donor conception ignores natural parent-child relationships and intentionally severs the relationship between a child and their biological parent before the child is born.

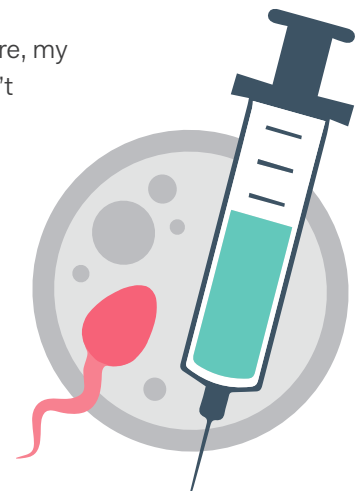




## Who is IVF for?

In most cases, if not all, IVF does not consider the best interests of children. The practice of IVF prioritizes the desires of adults. This is seen in part through the nature of the IVF industry, which seeks to create children no matter the cost.

- > One child conceived through IVF shared her [story](#): "Somehow, somewhere, my parents developed the idea that they deserved to have a baby, and it didn't matter how much it cost, how many times it took, or how many died in the process."
- > Another donor-conceived child [explains](#): "Discovering, aged 32, that I was donor-conceived was, to put it mildly, a bombshell. It made complete sense, explaining the lack of similarity to my social father, not to mention the tensions between us. It explained why I often had difficulties feeling that I fit in not only at home but at work, church, other social settings... Not knowing donor identity is like being lost in the middle of a great, featureless ocean."



## Questions to ask:



- #1 Do you agree that children should be born to and raised by their biological parents whenever possible?
- #2 How will you seek to ensure that embryos are not intentionally destroyed in the IVF process?
- #3 How will you make sure donor-conceived children can have access to information about their biological parent(s)?

*For more information on this issue, check out ARPA Canada's policy report on In Vitro Fertilization*