**Donating Egg and Sperm in the Context of Identity-Release Legislation**

Participant Information Sheet

You are invited to take part in a research study which examines how sperm and egg donation impacts on the everyday lives and relationships of donors. Before you decide whether to take part, it is important that you understand why the research is being carried out and what it would involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please get in touch if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

# Who will conduct the research?

This study is being conducted by Dr Petra Nordqvist and Leah Gilman, sociologists working at the University of Manchester. It is being conducted independently of any medical institution and is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

# What is the purpose of this research?

The study aims to explore and understand the experiences of people who donate egg or sperm in the context of identity-release legislation and how donation impacts on their everyday lives and relationships.

# Why I have I been chosen?

We are interested in speaking to infertility counsellors and donor managers who have worked (directly or indirectly) with people who have donated egg or sperm since April 2005, when identity-release legislation was implemented in the UK.

# What would I be asked to do if I took part?

Taking part would involve a one-off, informal interview with one of the researchers, in a time and place which suits you. This could be your workplace, if that is most convenient, but could also be a public place or your own home, if preferred. It will last approximately one hour. The interview will take the form of a guided conversation and the researcher will ask about your experiences of working with donors and how recent policy changes have been implemented in practice. With your permission, the interviews will be recorded using a digital voice recorder. If you wish to stop the interview, take a break or re-schedule, you can request this at any time.

# What happens to the data collected?

After the interview, our conversation would be transcribed. Transcriptions are stored securely and kept separate from any identifying details, so that what you have said remains confidential and your participation in the research remains anonymous. With your permission, we would then like to use anonymous quotations from your interviews for educational and research purposes, including academic publications. If, for reasons of client confidentiality, there is anything you are concerned about being quoted from your interview, please inform the researcher and your wishes will be respected.

# How is confidentiality maintained?

To maintain anonymity and confidentiality, any data which could identify you is stored securely, in line with the University of Manchester’s data security policy. All audio recordings are deleted from the recording device as soon as possible and then stored in a password protected folder on university computers. Your name and contact details would be stored in a locked filing cabinet in university offices and would only be accessed by members of the project team. During the transcription of interviews, all identifying details, like names and places, are removed and these fully anonymous transcripts are then stored on the University of Manchester secure server and university password protected computers. We would keep the anonymised files for 10 years. With your permission, and if deemed appropriate, the anonymised data files may also archived be with the UK Data Archive as they may be helpful to other researchers in the future.

# Will the outcomes of the research be published?

We anticipate that we will publish the findings in academic journals such as The Journal of Sociology of Health and Illness, Sociology, and British Journal of Sociology. We will also write shorter articles in professional journals as well as information leaflets to social policy makers, practitioners and the general public. Findings will also be published in a book aimed at academics, policy-makers, practitioners and other member of the public with an interest in the topic.

# What happens if I do not want to take part or if I change my mind?

You are under no obligation to take part in this study. If you do not wish to participate, do not reply to this email/letter and you will not be contacted again as part of this project. Even if you agree to be interviewed, you can change your mind at any point. You can stop the interview (and/or recording) at any time or choose not to answer any particular question, without needing to give a reason. If you wish to withdraw from the study after taking in part in the interview, you can do so at any time before September 2018, when the first findings from the research are expected to be published. You can decide not to take part in, or to withdraw from, this study, without giving a reason and without detriment to yourself.

# What if something goes wrong?

If there are any issues regarding this research that you would prefer not to discuss with members of the research team, or to make a complaint, please contact the Research Practice and Governance Coordinator by either writing to 'The Research Practice and Governance Co-ordinator, Research Office, Christie Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL,' by emailing: Research-Governance@manchester.ac.uk, or by telephoning 0161 275 7583 or 275 8093

# What should I do next?

If you do not wish to take part in the study, you do not need to take any further action.

If you would like to take part or would like further information, please contact one of the researchers using the following details:

Leah Gilman, [leah.gilman@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:leah.gilman@manchester.ac.uk), 0161 275 8995

Dr Petra Nordqvist, [petra.nordqvist@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:petra.nordqvist@manchester.ac.uk) 0161 275 0262

For further information about the project, you can also consult our web page:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/egg-and-sperm-donors](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/egg-and-sperm-donors)

**This project has been approved by the University of Manchester Research Ethics Committee (ref: 2017-0782-1600)**