

UNCOVERING THE FRAUD: IDENTITY REALIGNMENT

Insemination fraud is the deliberate substitution of the sperm sample chosen by the parents with that of another donor (or the doctor's) during artificial insemination.

People born as a result of insemination fraud may be shocked to discover the circumstances surrounding their conception, because this affects the very foundations of their identity:

AMPUTATED IDENTITY

People may mourn the **loss** of their former identity since it was based on erroneous information.

Losing **genetic ties** with their father or chosen donor may cause them to reevaluate their **ethnic, cultural, or religious identity**.

IDENTITY ON HOLD

Donor-conceived people may experience a period of **confusion** and **identity questioning** when the man whose gametes were used cannot be traced.

They may feel trapped in an "identity limbo," since they are waiting and sometimes unable to **uncover the real information about their origins**.

RENEWED IDENTITY

Some people claim to have created a **new identity** for themselves by selecting and sorting the new information available to them.

They can embrace certain aspects of their **new ethnic identity** without abandoning their **old one**.

The **new genetic ties** they discover may also shape how they perceive themselves.

A person born of a fraud shares their identity-related questioning since the discovery of the fraud. They have lifted the veil on the identity of their progenitor and on ethnocultural origins that they had not anticipated:

Those little building blocks in life that build who you are, weren't what I thought they were. I had my strong Norwegian heritage... I still have but I don't. So what am I? I am stuck in this limbo. **Anthony, 56 years old, donor-doctor swap**

By discovering the insemination fraud that lies at the heart of their conception, people simultaneously learn new information about their origins. This information can have a considerable impact on their identity, sometimes leading to grief and unanswered questions. It can also help lay the foundations for a new identity.