

UNCOVERING THE FRAUD: THE DIFFERENT PATHS

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 of insemination fraud discover the circumstances surrounding their conception in a multitude of ways. Sometimes, they were unaware that their parents had used fertility services to conceive them.

Some people discover the fraud by accident, using direct-to-consumer **DNA test kits**.

Others become concerned when cases of fraud involving their fertility clinic's doctor are reported in the **media**.

Finally, some people discover the fraud when they are diagnosed with a genetic **medical condition**.

NATURE OF THE FRAUD



People born of fraud have a wide range of reactions to the discovery.

Their reactions may differ depending on how **close** they are to the chosen progenitor (the father versus an anonymous donor).

Access to origins can also influence their reactions: some people learn the previously unknown identity of their progenitor (e.g. the doctor instead of an anonymous donor), while others are now deprived of it (e.g. an anonymous donor instead of their father).

After using a direct-to-consumer DNA test, Nicholas discovers that the father who raised him is not his biological father. The people he matches with on the genealogy site tell him about the fraud:

One of them said, "If you Google the name Donald Cline, you know it'll probably help you to understand some more things. And then you're going to have questions." (...) I don't know if it's a mistake, but I mean that I Googled the name (...) And I'm like, "What is going on? What is this?" So my head starts sending a lot of questions. I texted my mother (...), because I've never been told about any sort of you know, my parents seeing any fertility doctor or anything like that.

There are many paths to the discovery of fraud: from the results of a direct-to-consumer DNA test, to media attention on cases of fraud, to a hereditary medical condition. Once the fraud has been uncovered, the reactions of those involved are influenced by the nature of the fraud and the information available about their origins.