

INSEMINATION FRAUD: A FORM OF TRIVIALIZED VIOLENCE

WHAT DO WE KNOW?

Few studies have been conducted on this topic. However, we do know that :

- Many people believe that parents who go to fertility clinics **should be happy to have a child**, even if the sperm sample used was not the one they chose;
- The **social prestige** and **status** of the doctor shields the harmful aspect of insemination fraud when the doctor uses his own sperm;
- Some mothers liken their experience to **rape**, describing the discovery of the fraud as a **shock** that induces feelings of shame, anger, and disgust.

WHAT DO PEOPLE BORN OF A FRAUD SAY?

I think being donor conceived is hard enough (...), but then with fertility fraud, when you find out that this person is half of your DNA (...), you feel like you're a product of rape. And then when you don't have people to validate you and say like I agree, it's really hard.

Allison, 41 years old, donor-doctor swap

WHAT CAN WE DO?

LEARN MORE

- From the people concerned;
- From researchers studying this topic.

RAISE AWARENESS

- Among the public;
- Among decision-makers.

REGULATE

- Upstream by providing a better framework for medically assisted procreation;
- Downstream by sanctioning offending physicians.

Insemination fraud remains an insufficiently studied phenomenon that is rarely addressed by legislation, but its impact on the individuals born as a result of the practice and on their families is significant. As a result, donor-conceived people in many countries are organizing to put pressure on decision-makers to pass laws to prevent insemination fraud.