

# Family Building Definitions



**AMH:** This is the anti-müllerian hormone (AMH). In males, AMH is made by the testicles (or testes), which are glands that make sperm and male hormones. In females, the ovaries make AMH. The ovaries are glands where eggs form and female hormones are made. An AMH blood test checks how many eggs are left in ovaries, how well you may respond to fertility medication if you are getting close to menopause or have already begun it.

**Adoptee:** The person that has been adopted.

**Agency Placement:** Where birth parents have consented to have the adoption take place through an agency.

**Adoption Triad:** The adoptee, birth parents, and adoptive parents exclusively.

**Assigned Sex at Birth:** The discernment of an infant's sex at birth which can be male, female or intersex.

**Birth Mother/Father:** Individuals that have relinquished a child for adoption. They are typically given these names after placement.

**Consent to Adoption:** A document that expecting parents sign to relinquish their child for adoption either with an agency or to another family.

**Decree of Adoption:** A document you receive after finalizing your adoption.

**Directed (known, open) Donation:** When parties in a gamete or embryo donation arrangement are known to each other.

**Donor Conceived Person (DCP):** A person who was conceived via egg, sperm or embryo donation.

**eSET:** Elective single embryo transfer.

**Embryo:** A fertilized egg that has begun cell division.



**Embryo Disposition Options:** The options available to patients for their remaining embryos, which can include storing indefinitely (may not be an option in some countries), discarding, using for a compassionate transfer (option at some clinics though may not be an option at all clinics), donating to scientific research or lab training, donating to another individual or couple for family building.

**Embryo Donation:** The process in which remaining embryos from an individual's or couple's IVF cycle are donated to another person/couple, in hopes that the receiving party can have a child. While the terms embryo donation and embryo adoption are often used interchangeably, The American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) recommends the use of the term embryo donation. The process of adopting children has very different logistical and legal requirements than receiving a donated embryo.

**Expectant Parent:** Someone who is pregnant and is considering adoption.

**FET:** Acronym for frozen embryo transfer.

**FSH:** This is the follicle-stimulating hormone. FSH is made by your pituitary gland. FSH helps control the menstrual cycle and stimulates the growth of eggs in the ovaries. In men, FSH helps control the production of sperm.

**Family Profile:** Photographs, documents, and information provided by hopeful adoptive families to expecting parents to be able to learn more about them.

**Finalization:** A court hearing to finalize your adoption and receive your Decree of Adoption.

**Gestational Surrogacy:** A process where one person, who did not provide the egg used in conception, carries a fetus through pregnancy and gives birth to a baby for another person or couple. The carrier is not a genetic provider.

**Interstate Compact (ITCP):** Documents that need to be prepared for a child to cross from one state to another for the adoption process.

**Intended Parent:** An individual or couple who cannot conceive on their own—for any reason—and choose surrogacy to build their family.

**Non-Identified (unknown, closed) Donation:** When the identities of an embryo donor/recipient are unknown to each other. This was formerly considered "anonymous" but new terms were coined as anonymity is no longer possible.

**Oocyte:** A developing human egg.



**Ovarian Tissue Cryopreservation:** Surgery where the egg-producing portion of the ovary, called the ovarian cortex, is removed, frozen and stored. The tissue can be transplanted years later to make pregnancy possible.

**Open Adoption:** Communication between birth parents and adoptive parents that takes place before and after placement.

**PGT-A Tested Embryos:** PGT-A stands for Preimplantation Testing for Aneuploidy and is a screening test used to screen embryos for chromosome anomalies prior to transfer.

**Post-Adoption Visits:** Visits that occur before any adoption can be finalized. Each state has a different amount of visits. You can expect between 3-6 reports.

**Putative Father:** A man who claims to be the father of a child and wants to establish paternity.

**Putative Father Registry:** Some states have a legal system where a man acknowledges his paternity by filing an affidavit making him the legal father of that child.

**Recipient:** The individual or couple who receives the donated embryo. Can be considered synonymous with Intended Parent.

**Reciprocal IVF:** A fertility treatment in which one person with ovaries supplies the eggs, which are retrieved and fertilized by donor sperm via IVF. The resulting embryo(s) are implanted into the partner with a uterus for pregnancy as a gestational carrier.

**Semen Analysis:** Measures the quantity and quality of a person's semen and sperm.

**Semi-Open Embryo Donation:** Describes a relationship where donors and recipients may agree to some minimal contact or a consensual way to connect in the future but prefer not to have a relationship with each other.

**Sequential Embryo Donation:** When an embryo donor donates all embryos to one recipient, and then donates the remaining embryos again after the first recipient has completed their family building.

**Testicular Tissue Cryopreservation:** A fertility preservation option that involves taking testicular tissue and freezing it to try to make sperm from it later.

**Third Party Family Building:** A term to describe creating a family with the help of a gamete or embryo donor or a surrogate/gestational carrier.