

**FAMILY BEGINNINGS, P.C.**

**EMBRYO CRYOPRESERVATION CONSENT FORM**

We, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ authorize the Family Beginnings IVF lab to cryopreserve embryos obtained from our IVF/GIFT (circle one) procedure.

**Description of Procedure:** Embryos not transferred from a given assisted reproductive technology procedure can be successfully frozen, stored, and thawed at a later date for transfer. Embryos can be frozen at one of several developmental stages. They are then kept in liquid nitrogen tanks until thawing is performed. Embryos can theoretically be stored for years and still be viable after thawing. Once thawed, embryos that remain viable (alive) are transferred back to the patient to attempt to achieve pregnancy.

**Benefits of Procedure:** Embryo cryopreservation provides you with more than one chance to become pregnant from a given IVF or GIFT procedure. For example, if you do not become pregnant as a result of your IVF or GIFT attempt, you can use your cryopreserved embryos without having to go through another entire stimulation cycle. Embryo cryopreservation also allows us to transfer a safe number of oocytes or embryos, limiting the chance of a grand multiple pregnancy (triplets or greater).

**Risks of Procedure:** Your treatment cycle may not yield extra embryos for cryopreservation, or extra embryos may be deemed by the laboratory as non-viable and thus unsuitable for cryopreservation. Embryos may not survive freezing and thawing, or may not establish pregnancy after transfer. Mechanical failures may occur with the freezing equipment that would render the embryos non-viable. While current data indicates that there is no increase in birth defects or chromosomal abnormalities in children born from frozen embryo transfer, it is possible that such a problem may occur.

**Disposition of Frozen Embryos:** There are several potential options for disposition of your frozen embryos; three are listed below.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Transfer of frozen embryos to you to achieve pregnancy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Anonymous donation of embryos should you not want to achieve pregnancy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. If you do not want your embryos for transfer, they may be discarded.

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ It has been explained to me/us and I/we understand if I/we choose not to have full screening and testing conducted at the time of oocyte collection I/we may be unable, due to FDA regulation, to transfer our embryos produced by our sperm/oocytes to persons other than ourselves at any time in the future.

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ I/We choose not to have screening and testing done at this time.

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ I/We choose to have full screening and testing done

It is understood that you may change your mind regarding the disposition of your embryos. You must notify the laboratory in writing of any such changes.

It is further understood that you as a couple have the final authority as to the disposition of your cryopreserved embryos. Unforeseen circumstances, such as divorce or death of one of both partners, may affect the disposition of your cryopreserved embryos. In the event of the death of either partner, responsibility for decisions as to the disposition of cryopreserved embryos would be made by the surviving partner. In the case of death of both partners, responsibility as to the disposition of the embryos would be held by Family Beginnings Laboratory. In the event of divorce or dissolution of the relationship, embryos would be kept stored within the Family Beginnings IVF lab until a binding legal agreement is obtained indicating which partner has legal rights as to decisions regarding disposition of the embryos. The laboratory charges a yearly fee for maintenance of your embryos, payable one year after cryopreservation is performed. The laboratory will contact you at that time. If the laboratory, after using all available means (telephone, registered mail) cannot contact you regarding your embryos, we will store your embryos for a maximum of five years. Embryos would then be discarded at the end of the 5 year period. We further understand that factors out of the control of Family Beginnings, P.C. and James Donahue, M.D., e.g. loss of power, mechanical failure, human error or other unavoidable circumstances, may limit or prevent cryopreservation of embryos or even the loss of them.

