

Hello. My name is Michelle Smith. I am a donor conceived child. What makes my story different is who my donor father is; my parent's fertility doctor, Dr. Stephen Hornstein. My parents were unable to conceive children on their own, not unlike thousands of other couples across the United States. However, their fertility doctor used his own sample without my parent's knowledge or consent. This wasn't discovered until I did a home DNA kit through ancestry.com in 2020. It returned my ethnicity was 51% Jewish. Since I know of no Jewish heritage in my family, I began digging and asking questions. When we put the pieces together through talking with those who share DNA with us and reviewing other family trees, we discovered who our donor father was. Ancestry also showed six individuals who were half siblings of mine as well. Six. This man deceived at least six other families. These are just the ones we know about. The news tore through my family. My mother felt violated and a victim of rape. Her mental health has not been the same since learning of this news. This has altered our trust in ethical physician practices in every way possible. Why did he do this? We will never know. How could this be ethical? How could this be legal? Here is where you come in! Although my donor father is deceased and will never be held accountable for what he did, others can be held accountable for their unethical actions or perhaps even better, this legislation will deter medical practitioners from deceiving their patients in the future. Couples are going through emotional and trying times when they are unable to conceive children and for their physicians to deceive them in such a catastrophic manner during this time in their lives is reprehensible. YOU can change that. YOU can make the difference in people's lives. Unfortunately, my story is not rare but with your help, no one has to share the same story as I. Below is a link to our specific story, in hopes of identifying other victims of Dr. Horstein but sometimes words do not fully convey the impact situations have on families. "Our Father" on Netflix allows you to SEE the emotional journey others like me have been on. The story is what led to Indiana passing a fertility fraud law. Here is Ohio's chance to do the same! Be the difference! Thank you.