

To whom it may concern

Gift ov life and Egg Donation in South Africa

When the doctor told me that I had premature ovarian failure and that my only option if I wanted more children was donor eggs, I couldn't believe it. My daughter was only two years old, how could this be possible? But after trying every specialist and various alternative treatment options, I finally had to accept that if I wanted another child, I would have to seek a donor.

Once we had made the decision to seek a donor, we started looking into the options on an international level. For us it was important to be able to choose the donor ourselves and to have as much information as possible on her, even if she ultimately had to remain anonymous. This ruled out treatment in our home country, as here you get very little information on donors. We decided to go to South Africa for a number of reasons. The donation process is well regulated and you get a lot of information on the donors. It was easy to find a good physical match for me (Northern European ie fair skin, green eyes and fairly tall) whereas eg in the US this was very challenging. A friend had already been to South Africa for treatment and highly recommended the clinic we were going to attend. The overall cost was also very reasonable.

When looking at the various donor agencies, we were impressed with the comprehensive donor background information and prompt replies to our numerous questions that we received from Gift ov Life. Their pricing was also very competitive. Tami held our hand through the whole process and offered invaluable advice on donor selection. She also kept us well informed during the actual cycle. Without her help, the whole process would have been a lot more stressful. I cannot thank Gift ov Life enough for their superb support.

We thoroughly enjoyed our stay in South Africa, the Cape Town area is stunningly beautiful and security was far less of a problem than we had feared in advance. We were very fortunate in that our first cycle was succesful. We will certainly be returning to South Africa, this time not for treatment but just to explore the beautiful country to which we now have such a unique connection.

Like anybody contemplating using donor eggs, I worried about how I would feel about the donor-conceived child, particularly as I already had a genetic child. As my pregnancy advanced, my doubts receded. This baby doing somersaults in my tummy was MY baby, albeit conceived with the help of our wonderful donor. When he was born, I loved him exactly the same way as I did my daughter. We will be sharing his story with him when he is older. Although egg donation is nobody's first choice, rather than being the ultimate humiliation that it seemed when I first heard of it, it is a wonderful opportunity that we are fortunate to have available to us.

If you wish to ask me any questions, you can contact me on cmandk@gmail.com