

## *In Vitro Fertilization – Then and Now*

According to *Wikipedia*, “The first successful birth of a “test tube baby”, Louise Brown, occurred in 1978. Louise Brown was born as a result of natural cycle IVF (In vitro fertilization). In the USA an average cycle, from egg retrieval to embryo implantation, costs \$12,400, and insurance companies that do cover treatment, even partially, usually cap the number of cycles they pay for.”

On August 6, the Gazette featured a front-page article on Colorado’s first “test tube baby”, Elizabeth Casey, born in 1983. The article celebrated with Ellen Casey her success with IVF and the birth of her daughter. The IVF process was explained but did not report on the significant and deadly [to the tiny new human being] changes that have occurred in the past thirty years for women to birth the baby of their choice.

A recent New York Times article chronicled the growing trend for women to “reduce” their multiple gestation pregnancies to a single fetus. Under ultrasound guidance, the physician inserts a needle directly into the chest of the unwanted baby and injects potassium chloride – the same drug used for prison executions by lethal injection – stopping the heart and the unborn baby dies. The “corpse” is broken down by the mother’s immune system and is reabsorbed.

Jenny, one of the women highlighted in the Times article, said: “If I had conceived these twins naturally, I wouldn’t have reduced this pregnancy, because you feel like if there’s a natural order, then you don’t want to disturb it. But we created this child in such an artificial manner – in a test tube, choosing an egg donor, having the embryo placed in me – and somehow, making a decision about how many to carry seemed to be just another choice.” [emphasis added]

In Philadelphia, Dr. Michael Glassner is celebrating the birth of Connor Levy as a victory for a new genetic screening process he says could save his clients thousands of dollars and untold heartache. Levy was born to infertile parent via IVF after “Next Generation Sequencing” (NGS) identified him as the embryo most likely to survive the risky IVF process, which results in live births less than half of the time.

By allowing doctors to implant the strongest embryos, Glassner hopes NGS will make implantation failures and miscarriages due to chromosomal abnormalities a thing of the past. The technology analyzes and transcribes genetic code into a computerized data file, which can then be searched for signs of damage or weakness.

NGS can give such a clear pictures of the embryo’s DNA that couples might successfully choose the sex, hair color, eye color, or projected height [total customizing and “marketing”!] Glassner told NPR that high resolution of the NGS is capable of detecting thousands of different genetic sequencing, showing which embryos have a disease, which are carriers and which are unaffected.

In 2006, one clinic testing 2,000 couples found that 85-90% had pre-implantation genetic diagnosis done for gender selection. At that time, nearly half a million embryos were frozen in U.S. fertility clinics alone. Are these embryos human or are they simply “products of conception”?

Dr. George Delgado of Culture of Life Family Services, a prolife reproductive clinic in Southern California, rejects IVF, which normally results in the indefinite freezing or destruction of human beings at their earliest stages of development as unethical. Instead he treats infertile patients with NaProTECHNOLOGY, which he says has nearly three times the success rate of IVF and a much smaller chance of complications.

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## The President's Corner

Multiple times this summer I have encountered an unexpected objection to possible laws for the protection of pre-born children from wrongful death. Essentially, the argument was that we should be a forgiving people.

Given this reasoning, should we then take laws against murder off the books? Certainly lesser crimes should be written off as well? Forgive and forget?

I agree that we should be a forgiving people, but forgiveness is not the function of the law.

The law is supposed to reflect reality or, in other words, the truth. The law should make clear what constitutes wrongful death, among other things, and make provisions to protect society from those who would cause wrongful death.

If an action is not wrong, then forgiveness is not needed. It is the law which should show us what is wrong by reflecting reality. Forgiveness can be extended by people once the law indicates a wrong has been done.

Hence, we must strive to ensure that the law reflects the truth.

*Matt*

### A Father Who Can Never Forget

“I think of my child that will never be on earth. I hate the self-deception and the falsehood I bought into. The pseudo – “enlightened” argument I groped for has actually proven to be the DARKEST moment of my life, filling me with unending ache and remorse.

“Hardly a day goes by that I don’t shudder and almost weep again for the murder I helped to bring about. Quite often I even wake up in the morning thinking painfully of the undeniably selfish act I did over 11 years ago. STILL! I know I overrode in my core being my conscience (dulled at the time) and my Fatherhood instinct.

“No two ways about it: I acted – **no, I was a coward**. Even though assured of God’s forgiveness, I am still trying to forgive myself. The process of healing from abortion is different for every man and woman. It’s important for post-abortive men and women to remember that there is hope. You’re not alone in your pain; there are people that can help.”

Live Action News

### Tools to be Utilized in the Pro-life Movement

**Truth. Legislation. Love.** Like a three-legged stool, each of these components is essential to furthering the fight for life. Truth and legislation are complementary. What about love? It is the simplest, yet sometimes hardest thing we can do.

Speaking with love to someone who disagrees with us allows us to share the truth with them. Showing love to a girl or woman considering abortion may save her and her baby. For the post-abortive woman or man love helps both to understand there IS forgiveness.

Excerpts: Ohden, Melissa; LifeNews; 14 Aug 2013

We are most blessed to receive both prayer and financial support for the love of Life. Both are vitally important and most welcome any time.

### Memorial Gifts

*Received from*

*Carol Eheman*

*and*

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Our thanks & blessings

Received from

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## "After" effects of IVF

Stephanie Blessing grew up in a family with a loving mother, father and sister. Learning that she had been conceived with the assistance of a sperm donor and that the man she knew and loved as her father for 32 years was not her biological father, she went into shock.

The shock turned into depression as she began to mourn the loss of that father. Then she began to mourn the loss of her biological father. Blessing learned that she was conceived at the University of Texas SW Medical School.

Her "actual" father is of Eastern European Jewish descent and was a medical student or intern. "I think my mother wanted a child so badly, she couldn't think beyond her own need," said Blessing.

Sperm donation, egg donation and surrogacy are big businesses in the U.S. Current laws offer little, if any, avenue to address the harm done to donor-conceived children.

Donor-conceived Alana Newman is founder of ***The Anonymous Us Project***, described on its web-site as "a safety zone for real and honest opinions about reproductive technologies and family fragmentation."

Often, such offspring are asked: "Why are you complaining? You are here, aren't you? **You wouldn't be here without this technology.**"

Says Newman: "If it's illegal to buy and sell a person, **it should be illegal to pre-buy a person.**"

Excerpts: Fain, L.; "Woman Deals with Shock..." LifeNews; 4 Aug 13

## Melissa - Abortion Survivor

Scheduled to die by a saline abortion in 1977 in Sioux City, Iowa, Melissa Ohden miraculously survived her 19-year-old mother's abortion. She was born at 31 weeks and saved by nurses who first thought she was dead.

At 14, Ohden learned she was a survivor who had to work through shame, anger and the grief cycle. Most survivors, including Ohden, have reached the point of forgiving their families and have found healing.

Ohden began the ***Abortion Survivors Network*** in 2011. She has met with more than 100 abortion survivors, helping them find formal support.

Excerpts: Ohden, Melissa; "I Survived..." Family Resources Cntr - [www.theabortionsurvivors.com](http://www.theabortionsurvivors.com)

## Across the Nation

**Texas** - **Abortions after 20 weeks are banned.** All abortuaries are required to meet the same health and safety regulations as an ambulatory surgical center.

A **doctor** providing abortions must have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital. A **doctor** must personally administer the abortion-inducing drugs to a patient.

On July 24, the Texas Attorney General announced a \$4.3 million settlement against **Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast (PPGC) for Medicaid fraud.** This battle may still continue.

The States of **Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Indiana** have banned remote "web-cam" dispensing of chemical abortions; **Missouri** also requires an abortionist's physical presence with a woman who begins taking the abortion-inducing drugs.

The States of **Arkansas, Pennsylvania and Virginia** have blocked health insurance plans that are part of ObamaCare Exchanges from covering abortion.

**Montana** now requires parental consent for a minor to obtain an abortion. **Illinois**, after an **18-year legal battle**, now also requires parental notification for a minor to get an abortion.

**Arkansas** has banned abortions after 12 weeks; **North Dakota** banned sex selection abortions.

**North Dakota** requires abortionists to have **admitting and staff privileges** at a nearby hospital that allows abortion in its facilities.

**Alabama** requires abortuaries to have the same health care standards as ambulatory surgical centers. **Indiana** requires those facilities to follow specific health and safety standards; plus requiring an ultrasound be done prior to an abortion.

**California:** Gov. Jerry Brown **vetoed AB 926**, which would have allowed biotech companies to purchase human eggs (ova) from women and embryos from IVF companies [treating women as machines and tiny babies as objects to be sold. **Congratulations, Governor Brown!!**]

**Florida** now protects infants born alive after attempted abortions.

Various excerpts: LifeNews, LifeSiteNews, World

## **PP Closes Two Facilities**

In August, Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains (PPRM) announced the closing of two chemical abortion facilities in Colorado: one in LaJunta, the other in Colorado Springs.

Those two facilities offered chemical abortions ranging in cost from \$38 to \$817, including the dangerous “Morning after Pill”. Both offices referred patients for surgical abortions to other Colorado abortuaries.

In a press release, PPRM stated: “Effective September 1, PPRM’s Eastside health center in Colorado Springs...will close.

“In Colorado Springs, our new, spacious Westside health center has the capacity to serve all patients from our Eastside location (which was located in the Academy/Austin Bluffs area) and more.”

[It is most difficult to think of any of those locations as “health centers” when their reason for existing was, and is, abortion. Certainly not “healthy” for tiny new human beings which we all once were! ed]

## **“A Freakish Nightmare”**

In April, 2013, Isis went to a clinic in Brooklyn, NY. She chose RU 486 because it would be the easier and safer solution. She was given one mifepristone pill (RU 486) and four misoprotol pills to place in her vagina that evening.

“I was never given a medication guide,” says Isis. (That “Guide” notes that in most of the cases where **RU-486 patients have died**, misoprotol was used in the vagina.)

Within three hours of taking the RU-486, she began bleeding. “I was in pain – not just cramps, but utter exhausting pain...I believed in that moment I would die! I was more scared than I’ve ever been in my whole life!”

Isis said she prayed, rested and tried to calm herself, taking juice to restore lost fluids. “I felt victimized by these people. They did not tell me what to expect AT ALL.”

Calling her experience “a freakish nightmare”, Isis says “I would not recommend this pill to my worst enemy...”

Excerpts: O’Bannon, R.: “Patient calls...” NRL Ed Fund; 1 May 2013