

This response was submitted to the call for evidence by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics on *Emerging techniques to prevent inherited mitochondrial disorders: ethical issues* between January 2012 and February 2012. The views expressed are solely those of the respondent(s) and not those of the Council.

### **Anonymous 17**

#### **The relationship.**

Is there a relationship that is the question? Is it not the same as blood donating or organ donation because in those sort of cases relationship do not come into it. If it did you would have millions of people all related to each other. However in this specific case this is a different issue as because of it's rarity it is unique therefore there should be a not forgotten link to help eradicate this disorder.

#### **Would you inform a child.**

As this is such a complicated issue to inform a child would be totally inappropriate. Once the individual gets to an age of understanding, which depends on the individual, that is a bridge that could be crossed. Issues of this sort can lead to a perception of rejection towards the biological parents but it must be remembered that because this is such early days with this procedure there is a very clear case of when the child reaches puberty they should know their background.

#### **Would you travel for treatment.**

Firstly, as a loving parent you would want to do anything you could to help your child but so much would depend on your financial situation. You would do all you could to try and raise enough money but whether that would be possible is another story.