

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 18**

- What is the relationship of the mitochondrial donor to a child born using these techniques?  
I don't feel that there is a relationship, just a donor 'casing'. In a similar way to a surrogate mother I guess, but not as strong. I think the word 'relationship' implies a life-long bond. I don't necessarily think that this is the case, unless the parents chose to make that decision. If an IVF mother donated eggs and they were used by another family, would there always be a relationship between the child of her donated egg and herself? Would a sperm donor always have a 'relationship' with his child? These questions I would classify in the same category.

- Would you inform a child born using these techniques?  
I don't see why I would need to. If I felt that the child needed to be told for emotional or medical reasons, then I would give it considerable thought at that time.

- What would happen if this treatment was not available in the UK - would you travel for treatment?  
Yes I think I would. If I knew that it was successful and had been fully trialled and was safe for myself and the baby, then yes.