

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.

George Chisholm

Preventing the transmission of inherited mitochondrial disorders

Summary

The donor's relationship to the child is greater than that of a blood donor but less than a sperm donor. The donor should remain anonymous.

The child can be told when he/she is able to understand and deal with the implications, just as in the case of adopted children.

In the event of treatment being denied in UK, I suspect most couples would investigate the effectiveness of treatments offered abroad, and would buy the best service available.

Background

I am an adoptive father and grandfather of a girl who died aged 4, as a result of a mitochondrial disorder. Fortunately, our daughter now has two healthy sons.

Having seen and experienced the pain suffered by our granddaughter and the anxiety, sorrow and fatigue in her parents and wider family, I have no doubt that the research into mitochondrial disorders is very worthwhile.

George