



Information for Clients



Contents

Introduction	3
• Who we are.....	3
• Your options.....	4
• How we help find a donor.....	4
• How we assess and prepare a donor	5
• How we match you with a donor.....	5
• Information that you get about the donor	6
• Thanking the donor.....	6
• Meeting us	6
• How long does it take to find a donor?.....	7
• Why this is most likely to be the best option for you	7
• What makes Altrui different	7
• The Next Step.....	8



“I believe that there is a donor out there who is right for you. Our task is to help find her.”

Introduction

You have probably spent years trying for a baby, and the long and emotional journey has been a difficult one to make. Finally you are told your best chances for starting a family is to find a donor; this is not the news you wanted to hear.

At Altrui we understand how you might be feeling right now: anxious and fed up; unsure about what to do, which way to turn or exactly where your options lie. But we can offer you hope - a chance to create new life through a selfless act and the kindness and generosity of another.

If you decide that egg donation is the way for you, we will offer you all the advice, guidance and support you need and help to find an altruistic egg donor that will match and compliment your life.

We have tried to anticipate some of your questions and have answered them here:

Who we are

Altrui is run by Alison Bagshawe, a qualified nurse and fertility counsellor who previously worked for over 20 years in the Assisted Conception Unit at Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospital, as well as in a number of other notable clinics.

During the numerous hours that Alison has spent counselling, meeting and assessing donors and recipients, she has witnessed firsthand the anguish of many couples as they have been reluctantly forced to consider egg donation, and the subsequent difficulties they experienced when searching for a donor. She also discovered that, because of an apparent shortage of donors in the UK, many couples were being told that their only option was to go abroad for treatment.

Having previously been able to find UK donors for recipients with relative ease, it seemed an obvious solution to Alison to create a first class service that would help recruit altruistic egg donors in the UK, and then guide and support all parties involved throughout their treatment. This knowledge prompted Alison to set out on her own, and she left Guy's in 2010 and set up Altrui in the same year. Since then the service that Altrui offers has steadily expanded to work with an increasing number of UK Licensed Centres.

Alison is dedicated to finding any couple the right altruistic egg donor in the UK and will continue her search until a suitable donor comes forward. Because she is committed to ensuring all donors receive the support they need, Alison is also incredibly successful at finding new donors and ensuring they remain committed to the programme.



Your options

Unless you are lucky enough to have a friend or family member willing to become an egg donor, these are the other options available to you if you wish to pursue donation:

1. Find your own altruistic egg donor in the UK through Altrui. We will help you to find an anonymous altruistic donor in the UK who will donate her eggs exclusively to you. We believe that this represents the very best option for you, as we will explain later.
2. Join an egg-sharing programme (sometimes misleadingly called egg donation). Available at a number of licensed clinics throughout the UK, this involves paying for a donor's cycle of IVF in exchange for a share of the eggs collected. As the name suggests, this may also be in conjunction with a third person needing the donated eggs as well. Egg sharing does not, of course, give you the same benefits as an exclusive altruistic egg donor, but this route may be preferable if you want an egg donor from Asia, India or other ethnic minority group as egg donors from these groups can take longer to find.
3. Go abroad for egg donation. Many couples visit Europe or the USA in search of an egg donor, often in the mistaken belief that there are no egg donors available here in UK. This is obviously *not* the case, as proven by the many amazing women who have come forward and donated their eggs through Altrui over the last few years. It is therefore only necessary to go abroad if you have a good reason, or a desire to do so. If you wish to have the protection afforded by UK legislation and would like to enable any future child the right to identifying information about their donor, then either option 1 or 2 may be preferable for you.

How we help find a donor

We understand the stress that you might feel and we do our best to take as much of the strain off your shoulders as we can. Our programme is run by a team of experienced and knowledgeable professionals, all here to help find and recruit an egg donor for you alone. There are two principal strands to our recruitment which make it so effective:

Because of our excellent reputation for supporting and caring for our donors, we have many interested woman contact us via email, telephone or through our website. This sometimes enables us to match you with a donor very quickly indeed. By concentrating on a variety of marketing and advertising channels, we work hard to raise the profile of the need for donors and increase the public awareness of what donation really means to people like yourself.

Given that searching for a donor on your own can take up a lot of time and energy, as well as being an emotionally draining experience should your efforts be unsuccessful, we believe that our involvement removes the necessity and discomfort of having to approach friends and family and opens up every possible avenue to finding a donor.

Whichever direction you decide to take, we will then assess, screen and support all the potential donors to find you a suitable match. We will also make sure that they understand exactly what is involved, and the level of commitment that is expected of all parties throughout the process.



How we assess and prepare a donor

Recruiting an altruistic egg donor is both complex and time consuming. It requires knowledge, skill, sensitivity and a deep level of understanding to take a woman from the point where she is expressing an early interest, to the position where she is fully prepared to become an actual donor – ready, committed, suitable and aware of what to expect.

Being able to call upon our combined expertise in this situation is the massive underlying quality of Altrui and where our true value lies. Because we value, respect and appreciate all our donors for the kindness and generosity they have shown, once we have found a donor for you, it is unlikely that they will withdraw from the cycle or be turned down by the Licensed Centre on the grounds of unsuitability.

It usually takes up to eight weeks to take a person through this process to the point of being able to offer her as a donor.

How we match you with a donor

We understand that an important part of coming to terms with egg donation is feeling that care has been taken to match you with a suitable egg donor - one with whom you would feel comfortable. The fact that the donor will almost always be anonymous to you makes it even more important for us to get this right.

To help us do this, we will ask you for a photograph of yourself on your own and one as a couple. We will do the same with those women who are prepared to become an egg donor, and this is the starting point for the matching process.

We try and match the females through:

-  General build
-  Height
-  BMI
-  Eye Colour
-  Hair colour
-  Skin tone
-  Ethnicity & Heritage
-  Your backgrounds, including:
 - Education, Qualifications and Occupation. We ask egg donors their level of education, including further training, degree or professional registration. We also find out similar information about her siblings and parents. Some of our egg donors are young mums who chose to have children early instead of professional training or degree. We take all this into account when matching, once we understand them in their wider family context.
-  A subjective assessment. This will be based on the commonalities of personality and character. This includes attributes such as sense of humour, love of animals, life experiences etc.



Please note that the information we use is based solely on that provided by the egg donor and is not verified by any documentation. The Licensed Treatment Centre will obtain medical documentation about the egg donor.

Information that you get about the donor

We will send you the same set of information about the donor that we use for matching, except for her adult photograph. If possible, we will give you a photograph of the donor as a baby or child (up to the age of 5), but she is under no obligation to provide one if she prefers not to. We will also ask her to complete a more extensive personal profile, giving a greater insight into her character and the sort of woman that she is.

If you would like any further information about your donor, that is reasonable and non-identifying, you can always put any questions to her into an email and send it to us. We will then forward these on to the donor, using our email address to protect your identity, and relay her response back to you.

Thanking the donor

All Altrui egg donors are altruistic and anonymous, and many are mums themselves. Choosing to donate to you (albeit anonymously) and not to a general bank makes this a very personal donation.

We have found that many of our egg donors like to know a little about the people they are helping and are interested to know why their help is needed. Quite understandably, they also need to be reassured that any child conceived through their donation will be wanted and loved. To ensure your donor feels valued and appreciated for what they are doing, we suggest that you may like to write them a letter at some point. Although they don't know you, they will of course create a mental picture for themselves - just as you will about them. Reaching out like this can make the whole process far more personal for both parties, and give the donors a real sense of commitment and purpose.

Not everyone wants to either give or receive this however, so we will guide you where necessary.

Meeting us

Generally there is no need for us to meet you face-to-face. Everything is managed at your convenience, either electronically or by telephone and this level of contact is sufficient for us to achieve the outcome we all hope for.



👉 How long does it take to find a donor?

People often ask how long it will take, and although it is difficult to pinpoint, we can usually find a suitable donor within 3-4 months. The time it takes is dependent on many factors, which will be discussed with you during our first phone call, if you decide you would like our help.

👉 Why this is most likely to be the best option for you

Our 'one donor to one recipient' policy means that when we have carefully matched you to an Altrui egg donor, they will only donate *exclusively* to you. You do not need to share the eggs with other recipients as with most other donation programmes in the UK and abroad.

There are many reasons why having one donor is in your best interests, for instance:

- 👉 She donates exclusively for you and you do not have to share the eggs collected.
- 👉 Only the best embryos can be selected for replacement, giving you the highest chance of a successful pregnancy (currently 70-75% at one of the clinics).
- 👉 Should you not succeed in getting pregnant with one fresh IVF cycle, you may have the potential of using frozen embryos from the same egg donor and not have to start all over again with a different egg donor, with all the related charges.
- 👉 If your egg donation is successful, you may have the opportunity of having further genetically and biologically related siblings in the future.
- 👉 It is the most cost-effective option for you. Having one exclusive egg donor means you could potentially have several opportunities to become pregnant. This is considerably less expensive than having the same number of cycles with all the associated costs anywhere else.
- 👉 Any child will have the right to access identifying information about their egg donor in the future.

Allowing Altrui to help you find an egg donor means that you can undergo your treatment at a clinic of your choice right here in the UK. As well as being a more convenient and cost-effective process, it will also give you the confidence knowing you will receive ongoing care from a team you know, your egg donor has been through fully regulated screening, and you will benefit from the full protection of UK law.

👉 What makes Altrui different

There is no other organisation, agency, company or clinic that offers exclusive one-to-altruistic donation in the UK with the same high level of matching that we do. We will provide you with very detailed and significant information about a donor, including a photograph of them as a child. You will also be given an opportunity to request any other information through us, provided that it is reasonable and non-identifying.

We are passionate about the value and principle of our 'one donor to one recipient policy' donation, and we believe it will give you the very best chance of starting the family that you long for.



The Next Step

Our dedicated team at Altrui have the knowledge, experience and understanding necessary to help you find the perfect egg donor to suit your family. If you would like our help, the next steps to take are:

1. Please note that in order to register with us the egg recipient must be less than 49 years old, although we can sometimes be flexible, this will require a discussion with Altrui.
2. Make sure that you have read and understood our terms and conditions, as registering with us is taken as acceptance of these.
3. Register with us, by:
 - a. Following the instructions on the registration document.
 - b. Signing the agreement (unless you return it electronically) and returning it to Altrui.
 - c. Arranging for the payment to be made directly.
 - d. Sending us a current photograph, either electronically or through the post.

Please note: we cannot begin to start until we have received all the above.

4. Information that we need from you:
 - a. Which Licensed Clinic you propose to go to for treatment.
 - b. Your Unit/Clinic/Patient ID number if you are already registered at one of the clinics with which we have an agreement - this enables us to coordinate with the clinic.
 - c. If you are not already registered with a licensed clinic in the UK, you will need to go through one of the centres with which we have an agreement.
5. We rely on you to give us open and honest information about yourselves that will help us to find the right donor. You can be assured that any information that you give us will remain confidential. It will not be disclosed to anyone other than the treatment centre of your choice without your permission.
6. Once registered, we will arrange a telephone call within a week (unless informed differently) to discuss how we will start helping you find a donor.