

Application to join Donor Sibling Link

For donor-conceived people

What is Donor Sibling Link?

Donor Sibling Link (DSL) allows people who share the same donor (donor-conceived siblings) to exchange contact details with one another. Using information given to us by clinics, we're able to match you with your donor-conceived sibling(s) provided they've also joined DSL or join in the future.

What this form is for

Fill in this form if you want to join DSL. You must have been conceived after 1 August 1991 and be aged 18 or over to sign up.

How does the HFEA know who my donor-conceived genetic siblings are?

By law, clinics must submit information to us when they carry out fertility treatment involving donor sperm, eggs or embryos. This includes information about the patient (your birth mother), the donor, and any children born as a result of treatment.

All of this information is stored on a database called the HFEA Register. The information you supply in this application form allows us to use the information on the Register to identify the donor used in your parent(s)'s treatment and find out the number, sex and year of birth of other children born as a result of their donation (your donor-conceived genetic siblings). We can then cross check this with the information on DSL to find out their identity if they have joined DSL.

Please note the clinics that submit the information to the HFEA Register are responsible for its accuracy.

Things to consider:

We recommend applying to us first to find out if you do have any donor-conceived siblings. Not everyone will have donor-conceived siblings so it's worth checking before taking the time to join DSL. Visit our website, www.hfea.gov.uk, for more information.

Joining DSL does not guarantee that you will be able to get in touch with your donor-conceived genetic sibling(s). They may not be aware of their origins, may not wish to join DSL, or may not be ready to exchange contact details. Similarly, you should prepare yourself for the possibility that any siblings may take a long time to join DSL or to get in touch, or they may not join at all.

You might also want to think through some of the questions below to prepare yourself for potentially making contact with any genetic siblings:

- Are you ready to potentially meet any donor-conceived genetic siblings?
- Are you prepared for the fact that your donor-conceived siblings may have very different lifestyles, attitudes and opinions to you?
- What if you contact your donor-conceived genetic siblings and they don't respond?

We encourage you to talk through these questions, and any others you might have, with someone you trust, such as a family member or friend. We also recommend you take advantage of our free confidential support service which gives you the chance to talk things through with a specialist donor conception support worker. If you would like more information about this service, please tell us in section five.

1. About you

First name(s)

Surname

First name(s) at birth (if different)

Surname at birth (if different)

Date of birth

Gender

Place of birth

Country of birth

2. Contact details

In this section, please supply us with the postal address that you would like us to send any correspondence to and your contact details so we can get in touch with you if necessary.

The next section allows you to tell us which contact details you'd like to share with any donor-conceived genetic siblings on DSL.

If any of your contact details change in the future, please remember to tell us so that we can still get in touch with you.

House name or number

Street

Town

County

Postcode

Country

Contact number

Email address

3. Contact details to be supplied to donor-conceived genetic siblings

By joining DSL, you are agreeing to us disclosing your name, surname and the contact details you agree to share below to any donor-conceived genetic sibling(s) already on DSL and/or who join it in the future. You must agree to supply at least one method of contact.

You are also agreeing to us supplying you with the first name, surname and agreed contact details of any donor-conceived genetic sibling(s) already on DSL and/or who join DSL in the future.

Please note you can remove your details from DSL at any point by resubmitting this form with section six completed.

I agree to share the following contact details with any donor-conceived genetic sibling(s) (you must tick at least one option):

Email address Phone number Address

If you have agreed to supply more than one method of contact, which is your preferred method?

We will ask your donor-conceived genetic sibling(s) to try this option first before using the other contact details you have agreed to share.

Email address Phone number Address

If the contact details you would like to supply to your donor-conceived genetic sibling(s) are different to what you have supplied in section two, please provide us with the details you are happy to share in the box below.

If any of your contact details change in the future, please remember to tell us so that we supply the correct information to your donor-conceived genetic sibling(s).

Please continue to the your 'Your parent(s)' section on the next page.

4. Your parent(s)

Please note that if you are adopted we require details of your birth parents.

Birth mother's details

First name(s) at the time of treatment

Surname at the time of treatment

First name(s) at her birth

Surname at her birth

Date of birth

Place of birth

Country of birth

Clinic(s) where she received treatment (if known)

Father/second parent's details (if applicable)

First name(s) at the time of treatment

Surname at the time of treatment

Date of birth

Place of birth

Country of birth

5. Accessing support

Applying to exchange contact details with your donor-conceived genetic sibling(s) is a big decision and so it can be very helpful to talk through your thoughts with a professional. We can offer you a number of free sessions with our confidential support service once we've confirmed your identity.

Would you be interested in finding out more about this service?

Yes

No

If you ticked yes, we will contact you by email or telephone once we've received your application to give you more information about this.

6. Remove my details from DSL

Tick this box if you no longer wish to be registered on DSL.

By removing yourself from DSL, you will no longer receive the name and contact details for donor-conceived genetic siblings and your name and contact details will not be released to any new donor-conceived genetic siblings who join DSL. We will notify you once we have completed your request.

7. Proof of identity and address

Legally we must verify your identity before we can respond to your request. You must therefore send us **one proof of identity** and **one proof of address** from the list below. Please tick which ones you are supplying.

The identity documents you supply must be original documents or copies that have been certified by a solicitor (if you're a solicitor yourself you may not self-certify your own identity documents).

If you have already submitted proof of identity and address to us in the last five years as part of another information request, you do not need to resubmit these documents unless your name and/or address have changed. Please tick this box if this is the case

Identity:

valid passport

birth certificate (if your name has changed since this was issued, you also need to submit deed poll documentation or a marriage certificate)

valid full or provisional UK driving licence photo card, or

if your driving licence was issued before 1998, a valid old style paper UK driving licence which contains your date of birth.

Address (dated within the last three months):

utility bill

credit card statement

council tax bill

pay slip

bank statement

NHS card.

We recommend that you send this documentation to us using a secure delivery method. We will return them to you within five working days of receiving them by special delivery post. We accept no responsibility whatsoever for accidental loss or mishandling of documents that you submit with this application that is outside our premises and control.

8. Consent

By signing below, you consent to the HFEA processing your personal data for the purpose of complying with this request and its statutory obligation under section 31ZE of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended).

Your signature

Date

<input type="text"/>					
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We accept no responsibility for the impact that the information provided in response to your request has on you or any other person.

Submitting this form

Please post this completed form with your proof of identity and address documents (where necessary) to:

HFEA Information Team
10 Spring Gardens
London
SW1A 2BU

We will respond to your application within 20 working days of receiving this signed form and your proof of identity and address documents (where necessary).

We will retain a copy of this application form and all subsequent correspondence indefinitely.