

My name is Mark Hansen and I support fertility fraud legislation. I request for this letter to be included as part of the record for any public hearings. I am currently 55 years old and live in Urbandale, Iowa near Des Moines where I was born in 1965. I had always known my parents utilized artificial insemination to help with my conception. The explanation given to me was that my father had a low sperm count due to him contracting mumps as a teenager. The doctor assisted them in conceiving by providing vitamins to my father, monitoring my mother's cycle and then utilizing my father's semen through artificial insemination at the correct time. When I was 48 I surprisingly discovered my dad, the man who raised me, was not my biological father. An over-the-counter DNA test proved my biological father was actually my mother's doctor, Dr. Sidney Yugend from Indianola, Iowa.

Prior to her death, I discussed this shocking news with my mother and she insisted she was unaware the doctor used his own semen in the artificial insemination procedure. She was distraught with the news and felt violated. I spent a great amount of time consoling her, listening to her cry and discussing the flood of emotions we both were experiencing. As for me, my emotions were all over the board. I no longer had the stability and understanding of who I was and there was a terrible feeling of confusion and loss. My foundation in life, that being my family and the relationships within that family, were no longer as defined as they once were. Putting it simply, what I had known for 48 years wasn't true. I spent many nights tossing and turning, seeking answers to my questions and looking for direction with how to move ahead dealing with this news. I had concerns my existing extended family would no longer view me as family. I wondered about the new biological family who were literally strangers to me. I lost the direct connection to the rich ethnic traditions of my dad's family and had many questions about the new ethnicity that was scientifically defined as part of me.

When I discovered my paternity was not what I had known for 48 years, I thought my situation was fairly rare. With the ease and availability of over-the-counter DNA tests, others have learned they have a similar story as mine and we have formed an online support network. As more people test their DNA, more people will learn they have surprises in their history.

Based upon my mother's adamant position that she did not know the doctor was using his own semen and did not give her consent, the actions of her doctor are highly disturbing. His genetic material was inserted into my mother and, as a result, his genes have a permanent existence in me and my family tree. Strict laws need to be enacted to ensure similar actions are illegal in order to protect the victims. Ideally, strict laws will stop these actions so there are no more victims.

Please see that fertility fraud is defined and forbidden by state law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark K. Hansen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'M' and 'H'.

Mark K. Hansen
15215 Brookview Drive
Urbandale, Iowa 50323

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