

ACART Consultation on Informed Consent. Submission by Right to Life.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Informed Consent and Assisted Reproductive Technology

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the important issue of Informed consent and ART. The following is the response of Right to Life New Zealand Inc. Our Society has as its object to uphold the inalienable right to life of every human being from conception to natural death.

Our Society approaches this consultation from the stance that IVF is intrinsically immoral as it violates the Creator' plan for the procreation of the human race.

We have profound sympathy for those couples who are unable to conceive a child due to difficulties with fertility and pregnancy.

It is our belief that the human embryo is not a potential human being but a human being with great potential. Human life commences at conception and at the moment of conception the human embryo is endowed by its Creator with human rights, the foundation right being an inalienable right to life. God in His infinite wisdom has decreed that conception should take place in the sanctuary and safety of the mother's womb. It is part of this plan that God has entrusted to each human being gametes that are to be respected and protected and to find fulfilment within marriage. It is not part of God's revealed plan that human gametes can be donated to another person. It is therefore immoral to use gametes for research. It is also intrinsically evil to use human embryos for research, this is a violation of the human rights of the embryo. Research to be ethical is required to be for the benefit of the embryo. Research also entails the destruction of the embryo.

Our response to the questions are as follows:

Question 1 [a] Yes [b] No.

Question 2 [a] Yes [b] No.

Question 3 [a] It is unethical for a person to donate gametes or embryos, consent is unethical.

Question 4 [a] Yes [b] No.

Question 5 [a] [I] Yes [II] Yes.

Question 6 [a] Yes.

Question 7 [a] No [b] No.

Question 8 [a] As the embryo should not have been created it should be preferably implanted in the womb of a woman who is prepared to adopt this tiny human being.

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Question 9 [a]Yes [b] No.

10 [a] Informed consent is very important. Consent may be given only for matters that involve the exercise of our human rights that have been bestowed on us by our Creator. We may not give consent to matters that are outside the exercise of our human rights. IVF is intrinsically unethical, as a consequence all the questions concerning informed consent surrounding the implementation of IVF are fundamentally flawed. Our Creator has given a clear message to humanity, that conception should take place in the womb out of reach of man, who is tempted to interfere and aspire to play God, to our peril. Does anybody know where this technology is going to end up?

Yours sincerely

Ken Orr
Secretary,
Right to Life.