The following statement, sent by Teri Royal to the media on December 9, 2009, is reprinted here with the permission of Teri Royal:

Re: Dismissal of OPTIONS National Fertility Registry's Class Action Lawsuit

Statement from

Teri Royal

President & CEO

Case Number C 07-5238 JF (HRL)

United States District Court,
Northern District of California, San Jose Division

I've spent the last eight years of my life trying to pursue justice for 229 American women who have likely been genetically raped, yet don't even know it. Sure it's disappointing to have the case dismissed based on my attorney's failure to establish Subject Matter Jurisdiction, but I don't intend to re-file in state court. I simply cannot spend the rest of my life pursuing individual cases against 102 fertility physicians practicing in 25 different states. I'm only one person.

A website is being created, though (www.IVFVictimsNetwork.org), that is intended to educate American women about the ongoing practice of unauthorized egg-sharing in this country, and provide a way for them to protect themselves from becoming victims of this heinous practice. Ironically, one of the biggest hurdles may be convincing some women who are undergoing IVF in this country that they truly are at risk. It goes against everything we have always been taught about physicians being the ultimate models of honesty and integrity in our society. It's hard to believe otherwise, but with an independent audit reporting 669 embryos and 2,140 eggs unaccounted for, and a plethora of additional evidence indicating unauthorized egg-sharing practices, it is just too overwhelming to ignore.

Like we learned from a similar unauthorized egg-sharing scandal (commonly referred to as The UCI Fertility Scandal) which erupted in Orange County, California during the mid-1990s, the real victims here are the children . . . the ones conceived through unauthorized egg-sharing arrangements, who will eventually come of age, and begin searching for their maternal genetic roots by contacting the fertility clinics where they were conceived, only to find out that the records containing this invaluable information have been destroyed (ostensibly to keep the clinic's need for storage space under control, but more likely to protect the reputations of those who facilitated, and profited from, these unconscionable, black-market reproduction arrangements).
The Royal Heritage Foundation, a Non-Profit, Public Benefit Organization, was established in October 2008 to assist these tragically forgotten children as they search for their genetic origins. Donations gratefully accepted. Please send to: The Royal Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 6209, Garden Grove, CA 92846.

For additional information, contact: info@IVFVictimsNetwork.org

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