

September 29, 2009

**Official Position Statement
IVF Florida Reproductive Associates**

All of us at IVF Florida are saddened by the unusual and unfortunate events recently reported in the media regarding recent events surrounding handling of patient embryos.

We would like to reassure our patients and referral community that IVF Florida's mission and practice supports honesty and integrity in all ways, especially when it comes to the handling of patients' precious gametes and embryos.

- Our laboratory is managed by one of the top lab teams in the nation that strictly follow protocols that are consistent with the American Society for Reproductive Medicine guidelines.
- We are committed to adhering to the highest quality and patient safety standards, complying with applicable guidelines and rules set forth by the FDA, CAP, CLIA, and AAAHC.
- We are a member of SART & ASRM and follow the rigorous set of standards set forth by those organizations to ensure the best possible care for our patients.

We agree with the following statement issued by the American Fertility Association, a national non-profit organization dedicated to infertility prevention, reproductive health and family-building.

"If the facts in the Ohio case are concordant with media reports, it's a very unfortunate circumstance for all concerned, a result not to be minimized or trivialized. The story is newsworthy, however, because it is an extremely rare event.

"In 2007, there were 132,262 IVF cycles performed in the United States (Fresh, Frozen and Donor Egg, per the CDC) in which more than 300,000 embryos were placed into the intended recipients. Embryology laboratories have extremely rigorous procedures to maximally ensure public safety and the health of our patients and their children born of IVF."

Also we are in complete agreement with the recent ASRM official response to the recent incidents. We hope this will help address any questions and concerns you may have.

September 29, 2009

“ASRM responds to incidents at IVF clinics”

Statement Attributable to Robert W. Rebar, MD Executive Director

“The news this week of incidents at two separate infertility clinics gives us all pause.

First and foremost, we are concerned with the well-being of the patients involved. Even when everything goes perfectly, the in vitro fertilization process can be emotionally and physically challenging. We are confident our colleagues involved in these situations are doing their best to resolve them, and offer our sincerest best wishes that the parties involved will be able to come to satisfactory resolution.

For years, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine and our affiliate, the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology (SART), have been working to help our members provide the best possible care for their patients. In addition to our extensive educational and scientific activities, ASRM long ago established Practice and Ethics Committees to set standards, make recommendations and issue reports. Within the last few years we have changed our by-laws to allow us take disciplinary action against members and, just this week, have expelled a member for cause.

Clinics who wish to be members of SART must adhere to a rigorous set of standards. They are required to:

- Have an accredited laboratory. The lab accreditation program run by ASRM with the College of American Pathologists (CAP) has explicit standards on the identification and documentation of all tissues involved.*
- Adhere to all standards and recommendations of the ASRM Practice Committee*
- Adhere to all standards and recommendations of the ASRM Ethics Committee.*

In addition, there is already extensive government regulation of assisted reproduction.

By law, every IVF procedure and its outcome must be reported to the federal government. This is not true for any other medical procedure. And the FDA regulates all drugs, devices and tissues used in the course of infertility treatments.”