FDA Warns Private Sperm Donor on Lack of STI Testing

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The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has sent Trent Arsenault a cease-and-desist letter late last year telling him he must stop donating sperm because he does not follow the agency's requirements for getting tested for sexually transmitted infections within seven days before giving sperm, according to The Associated Press (AP). Arsenault, a San Francisco Bay area resident, has fathered 14 children in the past five years through free sperm donations to women he meets through his website. Aresnault says he donates sperm out of a sense of service to help people who want to have children but can't afford conventional sperm banks. Experts say this type of sperm donation raises the risk of transmitting HIV and other infections. In addition, fathering so many children could create hazards of accidental incest or inbreeding. Violators of FDA regulations on human cells and tissues face up to a year in prison and a $100,000 fine, according to guidelines published on the agency's website.

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