



Shari and Casey Franklin have been married for 10 years. After trying unsuccessfully to conceive a child naturally, they sought the services of an *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) clinic. After several attempts, the IVF procedure was successful and Shari became pregnant. Their son Corey is now two years old.

Eight embryos from the Franklins' IVF procedure remain in cold storage. A local biotechnology company, Embryos-R-Us, has contacted the Franklins with an offer to purchase these embryos for \$100,000.

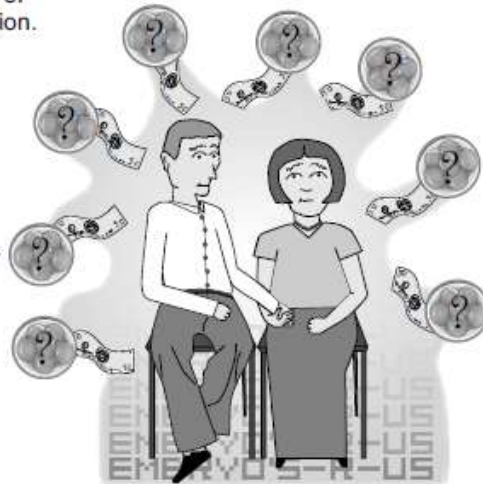
The Franklins are having financial difficulties and struggle to make the mortgage payments on their home. They would like to have another child but cannot afford the procedure.

Embryos-R-Us wishes to use the embryos to develop stem cell lines, which will be used in research to develop an Alzheimer's disease treatment. If this treatment were successful, the benefits to people with Alzheimer's disease and the potential profits to the company would be enormous.

Shari and Casey are discussing the possibility of selling the embryos. Put yourself in their situation. What would you do?

Questions

1. What are the relevant facts of this case?
2. What are some ethical questions raised by this situation?
3. Who are the stakeholders in this situation? Who will be affected by decisions that are made?
4. What are the values that play a role in the decision?
5. What are some possible solutions and their consequences?
6. What do you consider to be the best solution and why?



Embryos-R-Us: Assessment Rubric

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Relevant Facts	Four relevant facts were presented.	Three relevant facts were presented.	Two relevant facts were presented.	One relevant fact was presented.
Ethical Questions	Three ethical questions were raised that include an "ought" or "should" statement.	Three ethical questions were raised.	Two ethical questions were raised.	One ethical question was raised.
Stakeholders	Four stakeholders were identified.	Three stakeholders were identified.	Two stakeholders were identified.	One stakeholder was identified.
Values	At least four important values were identified. The importance of the values related to this issue was clearly stated.	At least four important values were identified but the relationship to the issue was not clear.	Two or three values were identified. The relationship to the issue was unclear.	One value was identified. The relationship to the issue was not stated.
Solutions and Consequences	At least four solutions were presented with at least one consequence for each clearly stated.	At least four solutions were presented, but the consequences were not clearly stated.	Two to three solutions were presented.	One solution was presented.
Final Solution and Reasoning	The chosen solution was supported with at least four relevant facts, values, etc.	The chosen solution was supported with three relevant facts, values, etc.	The chosen solution was supported with one or two relevant facts, values, etc.	The chosen solution was not supported with relevant facts, values, etc.

This rubric was created using the RubiStar tool, provided by the High Plains Regional Technology in Education