

### *The Pregnancy Risk*

*Network (PRN)* is a free phone counseling service based in Binghamton, New York, providing teratogen information services to pregnant women and health professionals. A teratogen is any agent or illness that may negatively impact fetal development during pregnancy. Alcohol, drugs/medicines, environmental hazards, etc. are all examples of teratogens. (Scientific studies indicate that each pregnant woman is exposed to approximately three teratogens during nine months of pregnancy.) The PRN takes a detailed history about the exposure, and provides risk assessment information based on the most current reliable medical research available. The PRN website can be found at [www.pregnancyrisknetwork.org](http://www.pregnancyrisknetwork.org)

### *Mission Statement*

Ferre Institute is a non-profit organization devoted to quality services in genetics and reproductive health.

### *Ferre's Website*

Found at [www.ferre.org](http://www.ferre.org) is a helpful resource for information about all of our programs. There is no charge to access information on our website.

### *Contact Information:*

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## *Ferre Institute, Inc.*

For Education  
and Counseling  
in Human Genetics,  
Prenatal Exposures,  
and Family Building

*Decoding Complex  
Health Issues*

## *Who We Are*

Ferre Institute, Inc. was created in Utica, New York in 1974 as a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and expansion of infertility services, which were largely unavailable at the time. In 1988, Ferre expanded its mission by adding a groundbreaking community genetics program, based in Binghamton, New York. Family building services such as adoption education were added in the 1990's. In 2002, a pre-existing teratogen information service, the Pregnancy Risk Network, merged with Ferre adding another dimension to our mission of providing the most current and balanced medical information to clients facing complex medical decisions.

## *Our Target Populations*

Ferre Institute provides professional education to medical providers, counselors, and other human services personnel. Individual counseling and education are also provided to patients of all ages in the Genetic Counseling, Family Building, and Prenatal Risk Programs. Services are free or on a sliding scale based on federal poverty guidelines.

## *Our Current Programs*

### *The Community Genetics*

*Program* serves patients of all ages at its offices in Binghamton, the Mohawk Valley, and the North Country, as well as providing consulting and educational services nationwide. Genetic counseling is an intensive process, integrating information derived from a detailed medical history (a "pedigree") with genetic and other medical test results. The greatest challenge facing the Genetic

Counselor is to present this complicated information to clients in an understandable form so that further medical decisions can be made. Our Community Genetics Program prides itself on working with a client's family and other medical providers, so that the process is seamless. Ferre's program is renowned for its prenatal, pediatric, cancer and cardiovascular genetics counseling specialties.

Ferre has been instrumental in creating and fostering support groups for infertility and adoption. *The Family Building Program* provides outreach and resources to Families of Color and the Lesbian and Gay Community on fertility issues and family building options. We have also developed state-of-the-art resource materials including pamphlets, videos and CD ROMs on topics in this area.