

America's top-paid TV star sued by her embryos

Will Pavia New York

An embryo fertilised in a test tube should be considered a person, with the same rights as anyone else, according to the law in Louisiana.

This may help to explain how two female embryos in cold storage have managed to acquire a lawyer and sue Sofia Vergara, the television actress and star of the spoof documentary *Modern Family*, who is their mother.

According to a report in the *New York Post*, Emma and Isabella, as they are called in the lawsuit, contend that they are being deprived of the chance to be born and inherit a trust which has been set up for them in the state.

It is the latest twist in a legal saga between Vergara and her former fiancé Nick Loeb, a businessman, who has been trying to win the right to have the embryos implanted in a surrogate.

They were fertilised in 2013 when the couple were still together. As Vergara, America's highest paid TV actress, already had a son and her career was taking off, she and Mr Loeb agreed to create embryos to postpone parenthood. They signed forms saying the embryos ~~could be brought to term only with both parents' consent, but not specifying what would happen if they separated — which they later did.~~

Mr Loeb sought to have the agreement rendered void in a Californian court.

Yesterday Mr Loeb denied any involvement in the new lawsuit in Louisiana. "I didn't file anything, nor did my lawyers," he said in an email, adding: "I suggest you contact [the embryos'] attorney, who is working pro bono for them."



Sofia Vergara is
the mother