

About Surrogacy Programs (#17)

For couples who are considering gestational carrier (traditional surrogacy) or gestational carrier arrangement (host uterus surrogacy), the following questions may be helpful. During traditional gestational carrier procedures, the infertile couple's sperm is inseminated into the carrier, the resulting child would have the genes from both the carrier and the infertile couple's husband. During a gestational carrier arrangement, an embryo (created from the egg and sperm of the infertile couple) is transferred to the carrier uterus.

1. How long has the program been in operation? Does the program maintain a referral listing of previous client couples?
2. Does the program recruit its own surrogates? Through what means?
3. Will they work with a surrogate recruited by the couple themselves?
4. How are surrogates expenses handled? Is there a cap on these expenses?
5. Does the program offer medical screening of the surrogate? To what extent? Who does the screening?
6. Does medical screening include an AIDS test of surrogate and her partner?
7. Is gestational surrogacy (also called surrogate IVF, host uterus) as well as traditional surrogacy available?
8. What are the costs of surrogacy (traditional, gestational or donor)? What is the fee payment structure?
9. What are the financial obligations incurred by the couple? What is the payment schedule?
10. How long are the surrogate's medical records kept?
11. Does the program offer psychological screening and counseling to all parties? To what extent?
12. Does the program offer on-site medical services (insemination or IVF) or do they work with local physicians and hospitals?
13. How many babies have been born through the agency/clinic's surrogacy programs?
14. To what extent is contact between the surrogate and the couple encouraged? (By letter, meeting face-to-face, on-going?)
15. Can the couple be present at the birth?
16. What type of legal counsel is offered to the surrogate and the couple? Does this include the drawing up of contracts?

17. Does the program offer adoption finalization services?
18. What are the fees for informational meetings or interviews?
19. What are the financial obligations incurred by the couple? What is the payment schedule?
20. If the surrogate does not get pregnant over a certain number of cycles, what is the clinic's policy regarding refund of fees paid?
21. In the event that the contract is not honored, what are the financial obligations for the couple?
22. In the event that the surrogate has a pregnancy loss, what are the financial obligations for the couple?
23. Does the program have a Medical Registry for updating the medical history of the surrogates or the children?
24. Does the program have a registry for the surrogate and children to exchange information when the child reaches maturity?

Further information on this topic is available through RESOLVE fact sheets. For a publications order form, go online to www.resolve.org. You can also contact RESOLVE Headquarters at 1760 Old Meadow Rd, Ste 500, McLean, VA 22102 or 703.556.7172.

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