

A guide to surrogacy written by a two-time surrogate mother.

How to Become a Gestational Surrogate Mother: A Step-by-Step Guide from Decision to Delivery

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# How to Become a Gestational Surrogate Mother

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A Step-by-Step Guide from Decision to Delivery

By Rayven Perkins

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The reader is strongly encouraged to seek legal representation before entering into any surrogacy arrangement or implementing any of the ideas contained in the following material. Likewise the reader is strongly encouraged to seek a tax professional's advice and recommendations on the issues of payment of taxes on all surrogacy compensation.

## 2 How Surrogacy is Viewed

### **By the Intended Parents**

For the most part, intended parents fall into two different groups.

On one hand you have the intended parents who are thankful and appreciative of the wonderful gift that their surrogate is giving them. They realize the sacrifice that is made by their surrogate, and love her deeply. Some intended parents are very vocal or visual about this appreciation, while others keep it to themselves.

These intended parents treat their surrogate as though she is a valued friend, or a sister. They show her respect, and expect respect in return.

On the other hand are the intended parents who see their surrogate as an employee. They feel they are paying her for her services, and she should perform as contracted. They are usually not emotionally attached to their surrogate in any way.

These intended parents are not uncaring; they just view the situation differently from the first group.

Occasionally, due to misunderstandings that get out of control or a surrogate who does not respect her intended parents, or worse, takes advantage of them, some intended parents cross from the first group into the second one. This also happens occasionally when an intended parent, usually the intended mother, finds herself dealing with jealousy towards the surrogate that she did not expect.

## **By the Surrogate**

Most surrogates view surrogacy as the joyous sacrifice that it truly is.

They see their contribution in the process as a wonderful gift they are giving to the intended parents, and feel that they are helping another family in a way they cannot possibly help themselves.

Most surrogate mothers are caring individuals, who want to set a good example for their children. They are typically involved in charitable organizations, or in their local churches. Of those surrogates who work outside the home, it is common that they are teachers or health care professionals. Military mothers are also often surrogates.

Though most surrogates give of themselves to help another family in a purely unselfish manner, there are some surrogates who view surrogacy as little more than a financial arrangement. Most of the time, these surrogates get into this community with the wrong intentions, and realize there is a lot more sacrifice than they realized.

Surrogates who chose surrogacy as an income rarely complete a second surrogacy.

## **By the General Population**

The general population is very confused about surrogacy.

Many people think that surrogate mothers are money-hungry women willing to do anything for a quick buck.

Most of the reason that surrogates are offended by the mere mention of money is that they are afraid of what the general population seems to think. They feel that the world will look down on them as if they are “selling their body” or “renting their womb”. The general population also has an unrealistic view on how much a surrogate actually gets paid, due to media inflating the truth.

In addition to those who will think you are just in it for the money, you will encounter a variety of different people with different views.

- You will encounter many people who think you are wonderful for helping another family.
  
- You will encounter many who are ignorant and need it explained to them in detail about why you are not biologically related to the child.
  
- You will encounter people who will not understand you after you explain it to them.

*A Surrogate's Perspective...*

“I once had a conversation with a woman about the fact that the twins I was carrying were not biologically mine. I explained that they were the biological children of my friend. This woman listened intently to the conversation, made intelligent remarks and asked logical questions. At the end of our discussion, she said to me, ‘So when they are born are you going to give them both to the same family?’ I just pasted a smile on my face and said ‘Yes.’”

- You will encounter those who think you are wrong or immoral for doing this. Many surrogates have reported that their church has asked them to stop coming to services until the baby is born, or to stop helping in various ministries because they do not agree with her decision.
  
- You will find unsupportive family and friends.
  
- You will encounter complete strangers who feel they have the right to ask you every personal question under the sun.

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