



Surrogacy International, Inc.

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THE SURROGATE PROCESS:

A unique journey and profound bond that lasts a lifetime.

- Step 1: Successful match.** Positive match between surrogate and intended parent(s). This will include the exchange of information and usually a meeting between the parties.
- Step 2: Medical exam and consult.** Complete physical exam with the fertility specialist to determine overall health. This usually includes a pelvic exam, ultrasound and blood tests. Toxicology and blood cultures are routine to ensure no drug use, sexually transmitted infections, or other potential medical dangers exist. Any additional medical questions or concerns can be addressed at this time.
- Step 3: Legal consultation.** The rights and interests of the surrogate and intended parent(s) must be protected. Attorneys will prepare and/or review all contracts and agreements between the surrogate and the intended parents(s). Surrogacy International, Inc. requires that all parties have independent legal representation to avoid conflicts. The intended parent(s) typically pay for all parties' attorneys' fees.
- Step 4: Preparing the surrogate cycle.** The fertility specialists will provide a cycle calendar that must be followed exactly. The purpose of the calendar is to synchronize the cycles of the surrogate and intended mother and/or egg donor. The calendar provides important dates for beginning medications, etc. Some medications are taken by mouth while others are injections. Full instructions and information about this medication regimen will be provided to you by the physician's office. Once injections begin, the surrogate may no longer have sexual intercourse.
- Step 5: Embryo transfer.** The previously extracted and fertilized egg(s) are transferred to the surrogate's uterus (womb). The process is rather quick, but the surrogate is usually put on bed rest for 24-48 hours to allow the embryo to attach itself to the uterus successfully. Accommodations will be made as necessary.
- Step 6: Pregnancy confirmation.** Approximately two weeks following the embryo transfer, a blood test will be administered to determine a positive pregnancy. One week after the blood test, an ultrasound will further confirm the pregnancy.
- Step 7: Monitoring.** For twelve weeks, appointments with the surrogacy specialist will be required every one to two weeks. Ultrasounds and blood work will help monitor the pregnancy success and possibility of multiples. Occasionally during this time, hormone injections may be required to help support the pregnancy.
- Step 8: Pregnancy.** After twelve to fourteen weeks gestation, the surrogate can return to seeing their own approved OBGYN for the remainder of the pregnancy.
- Step 9: Legal preparation.** During the pregnancy, critical documentation will be completed and filed with the court to obtain a judgment establishing the intended parent(s) as the parents by all definitions.
- Step 10: Birth.** A child is born and a new family has begun.