

Gestational Carrier Checklist

Gestational Carrier Pregnancy Sample Timeline

1) Understand if gestational surrogacy is right for you and your loved ones

- Seek experienced advice during the decision making process whether it be from a professional, a former gestational carrier or intended parent
- A number of resources exist, including our agency, to help you understand all the facets of the process

2) Things to consider when hiring the right surrogacy agency:

- Choose a qualified agency that fits your personal requirements and expectations
- Understand their carrier pre-screening process
- Consider the level of support provided throughout the process and post-delivery
- Understand how the agency will manage the insurance process, e.g., review of existing policy, facilitating the purchase of supplemental coverage as needed, claim submission both during and after the pregnancy and assisting with the rollover of insurance coverage post-delivery to the intended parents
- How they manage the financial obligations, including establishment of escrow accounts and expense reimbursement
- How they handle administrative details, e.g., insurance review, travel arrangements, coordination of legal and medical appointments, etc.

3) If you choose to work with TSE, you will begin the pre-screening process prior to acceptance to our program

- National background check for you and your husband/partner (if applicable)
- Initial psychological evaluation by a licensed mental health professional
- Home study evaluation by a licensed social worker or TSE professional
- Medical record review by a medical professional
- Drug screening
- Sign off from PCP/OBGYN stating you are fit to be a carrier

4) Begin the matching process with prospective intended parents (every agency's process will differ)

- TSE will work closely with you to outline your expectations (e.g., intended parent relationship, carrying multiples, birth experience, etc.)
- Create a gestational carrier profile to share with intended parents
- When an intended parent expresses interest in your profile, you will receive their profile for review
- If mutual interest exists, our agency will facilitate an introductory phone call with the intended parents
- After the initial phone discussion, TSE will work with you and the intended parents to decide if a further meeting is appropriate
- Once both parties agree to move forward, you will commence the process with an IVF clinic of the intended parent's choice

5) Finalizing a surrogacy agreement

- The intended parent's legal counsel will draft an agreement governing the relationship and financial obligations between you and the intended parents
- It is recommended separate legal counsel be retained to review your contract with the intended parents to ensure your health and interests are protected

6) Medical Process

- At the same time your legal agreement is being drafted, you will work with your IVF clinic to complete additional screening steps including an in-depth psychological evaluation and medical testing
- Once the IVF clinic signs off on the match the surrogacy agreement is signed and your fee is put into escrow and the medical process commences
- The particular circumstances of you and your intended parents will dictate what medical procedures are required for surrogacy - however, all cases will involve In Vitro Fertilization or IVF

7) Pre-birth order is filed

- The specific circumstances and location of you and your intended parents will dictate what legal counsel and proceedings are required
- If pregnancy is achieved, intended parent legal counsel will petition for the pre-birth order allowing the intended parents to be listed on the birth certificate as the legal parents of the child; depending on the state and circumstances step parent adoption may be necessary
- You may be required to cooperatively participate in the legal proceedings that will lead to issuance of a pre-birth order (An agreement by you to cooperate in this process will be part of your gestational surrogacy contract)

8) The Pregnancy & Birth Plan

- Depending on the intended parent's desired level of involvement, TSE will coordinate with you and your intended parents a schedule of appointments
- TSE will work with both parties to develop a detailed birth plan and facilitate a meeting with hospital staff to manage the events at the hospital (e.g., what role the intended parents will have while in the hospital, who will be present during the birth, etc.)

9) Post-Birth Support

- TSE is committed to providing you with post-birth support including regular check-points and assistance with any lingering administrative details

**The information provided above is meant as a guideline for your reference only; your particular circumstances will determine what steps are required during the surrogacy process*