

Intended Parent Considerations

- 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 intended parent or gestational carrier
 - Many resources exist, including The Surrogacy Experience (TSE), to help you understand all the facets of the process

- 2) **Things to consider when looking for the right surrogacy agency to work with:**
 - Choose a qualified agency that fits your personal requirements and expectations
 - Understand their carrier pre-screening process (e.g. how much screening is done, are you required to pay for any screening, etc.)
 - 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., travel arrangements, coordination of legal and medical appointments, etc. or is that an additional service / cost
 - What support do they offer you throughout the entire journey and post-delivery
 - What is included in their fees and service agreement, what are additional services and fees

- 3) **Creating a Personal Portrait**
 - Once you have chosen an agency to work with and have signed their service agreement, your expectations should be listed
 - TSE will work with you to create a persona portrait/profile, which includes information about yourself, your family, reasons for embarking on surrogacy and your general expectations for the experience
 - Based on that information, we will create a surrogacy plan tailored to your needs

- 4) **Begin the matching process with prospective gestational carriers: *(every agency's process will differ)***
 - TSE will work closely with you to outline your expectations (e.g., surrogate mother relationship, number of embryos to transfer, thoughts on reduction/termination, etc.)
 - We'll create a gestational carrier profile to share with intended parents
 - Once you are introduced to gestational carrier profiles and have narrowed down your selection, your profile will be given to the prospective carrier for their review
 - If mutual interest exists, our agency will facilitate an introductory phone call with you, the gestational carrier and her partner (if applicable) and serve as the facilitator of the call
 - Once both parties agree to move forward, you will sign a Match Agreement and commence the next steps in medical and legal

5) Finalizing a surrogacy agreement

- You will engage a reproductive attorney to draft an agreement governing the relationship and financial obligations between you and the gestational carrier
- It is recommended separate legal counsel be retained, therefore the gestational carrier will also have an attorney and the legal fees are paid for by the intended parents

6) Medical Process

- At the same time, your legal agreement is being drafted, you and your carrier will work with the IVF clinic to complete additional screening steps including an in-depth psychological evaluation and medical testing based on their requirements
- Once the IVF clinic approves you to move forward, and the surrogacy agreement is signed with the intended parents, the medical process commences
- The circumstances of you and your gestational carrier will dictate what medical procedures are required for surrogacy - however, all cases will involve In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)

7) The Pregnancy & Birth Plan

- Once pregnancy is confirmed via an ultrasound showing heartbeat(s) your gestational carrier will be released from the fertility clinic's care to her OB/GYN for the remainder of the pregnancy
- Depending on your desired level of involvement, TSE will coordinate with you and your gestational carrier what appointments you will be attending. Typically, the intended parents will attend the first OB appointment, 20-week milestone and of course the birth, if there is travel involved
- 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.)

8) Pre-birth order is filed

- The specific circumstances and location of you and your gestational carrier will dictate what legal counsel and proceedings are required
- Once again you will engage the services of a reproductive attorney who will petition the courts in the county that the baby will be born in. This attorney will seek a ruling 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
- Your gestational carrier and her spouse (if applicable) will be required to cooperatively participate in the legal proceedings that will lead to issuance of a pre-birth order
- Depending on the state/county the birth will occur it could be a pre- or post-birth order

9) Post-Birth Support

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

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