Five Essential Steps for a Successful Surrogacy Journey

Picking the Right Fertility Clinic to Support You

Surrogacy involves complex medical steps, including in vitro fertilization (IVF), embryo transfer, prenatal care, and delivery. Intended parents benefit from learning about:

- ✓ The success rates of different fertility treatments and clinics
- ✓ The health risks and considerations for surrogates
- ✓ How genetic screening and embryo selection work

Picking your fertility clinic and reproductive endocrinologist is key to your journey as an intended parent. Your doctor and their staff will be the professionals you and your surrogate work intimately with. Key points to discuss with your doctor are medication protocols, embryo quality, and what tests they perform before transfer and in the event of a failed transfer. Obtain and review your fertility clinic's gestational carrier requirements and the American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) guidelines checklist provided here.

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Navigating Legal and Ethical Considerations

Surrogacy laws vary by state and country, and legal education ensures intended parents understand:

- ✓ Parental rights and legal parentage processes
- ✓ Surrogacy contracts and financial agreements
- ✓ Ethical concerns, such as surrogate autonomy and compensation

Choosing an attorney knowledgeable in Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) is essential for an ethical, safe journey. Fertility laws are frequently reviewed and navigated at the state level. Your attorneys will guide you through the legal contract process and ensure parental birth orders are obtained. As a professional concierge service, Priority Surrogate Connection has a list of attorneys for every state who are knowledgeable and can assist with guidance, legal contracts, and parentage birth orders.

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Managing Emotional and Psychological Aspects

Surrogacy is an emotionally charged journey,
and education helps intended parents prepare for:

- ✓ The loss of control over pregnancy
- ✓ Building a relationship with the surrogate
- ✓ Coping with waiting periods and uncertainties

ASRM guidelines require both the intended parents and the gestational surrogate to be mentally and emotionally ready for this journey. Assess your personal support network and plan so they can be available for this journey. Working with Priority Surrogate Connection concierge service adds to your support network by being your advocate, trusted partner, and professional expert to offer education and guidance. We offer tiered service options that allow our professional licensed clinical social worker to provide ongoing personal support throughout your journey.

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Financial Planning and Transparency

Surrogacy can be expensive, and financial education ensures intended parents:

- ✓ Understand cost breakdowns (medical, legal, surrogate compensation)
- ✓ Learn about escrow accounts for secure payments
- ✓ Plan for unexpected expenses

Gestational surrogacy can cost $125,000-$200,000 in the United States. Priority Surrogate Connection can help you understand the cost breakdown of surrogacy through one-on-one education. Discuss family planning benefits with your employer to see what you are eligible for. Our list of trusted escrow companies can help protect your well-being and assets.

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Strengthening Communication

Education fosters better communication between intended parents and surrogates, helping them:

- ✓ Set clear expectations for involvement
- ✓ Navigate cultural and personal differences
- ✓ Build trust and mutual respect

The more prepared you feel with education, the more effectively you can communicate with your healthcare team and gestational surrogate. Priority Surrogate Connection ensures you feel heard and valued. We prioritize education and the matching process to ensure you are set up for success from step one.

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Gestational Carrier ASRM Guidelines

- No smoking or drug use.
- No history of major depression, postpartum mood disorder, bipolar disorder, psychosis, or clinically significant anxiety disorder with impaired functioning
- No evidence of coercion, including but not limited to the following and: Financial, including the primary source of income and government assistance programs, Personal, Familial, Dual Relationship.
- The carrier should not have had more than a total of five previous deliveries or three deliveries via cesarean section.
- Carriers must be of legal age, and preferably between the ages of 21 and 45 years.
- Have a healthy BMI.
- The carrier should have had at least one term, uncomplicated pregnancy.
- Have no felony convictions.
- Carriers must have a stable family environment with adequate support to help them cope with the added stress of pregnancy.
- No current use of psychoactive medication.

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