

MHBV Virtual

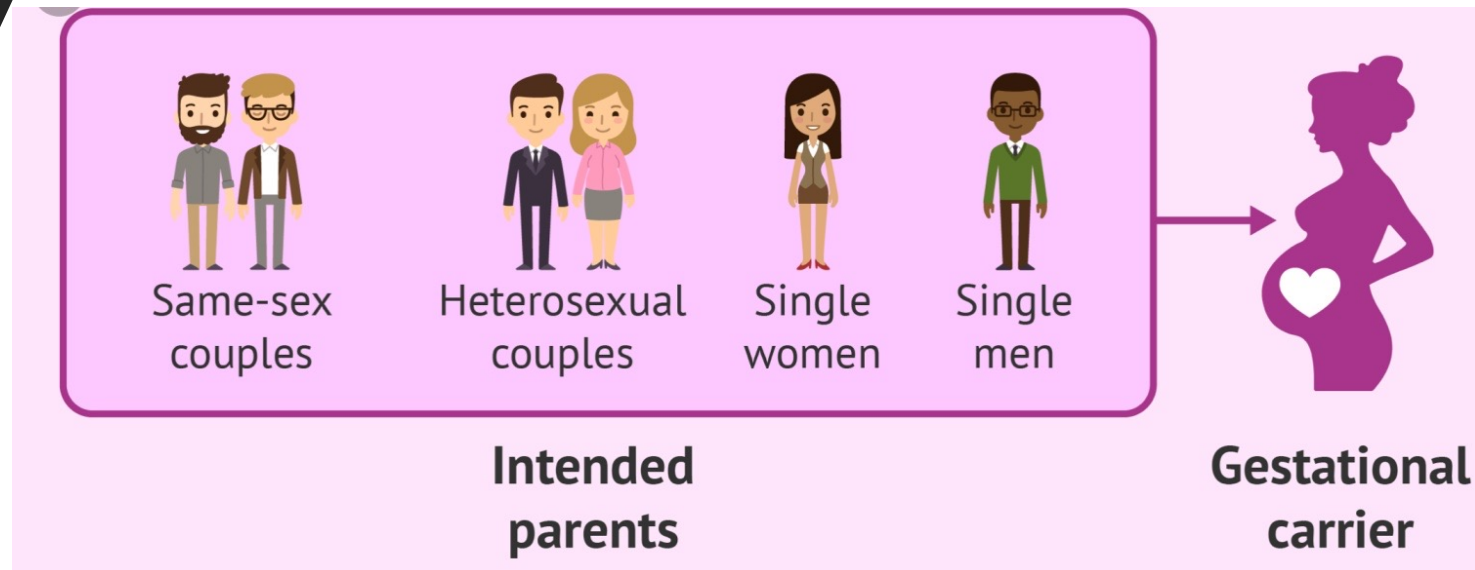


Overview of Surrogacy

Understanding the surrogacy process

What is Surrogacy?

Surrogacy is defined as the act of a woman choosing to carry a child (or children) for another individual or couple, with the full intention of giving the child(ren) to those intended parent(s) at birth.



Embryo Creation Timeline



EGG DONOR
MATCHING AND
SCREENING



CONTRACTS



MEDICATION STARTS



MONITORING



EGG RETRIEVAL



FERTILIZATION



TESTING



TRANSFER (OR FREEZE)

Surrogate and Pregnancy Timeline

Surrogate matching

Medical Screening (surrogate and partner)

Psycho-social screening (all parties)

Legal

Medicated Cycle

Transfer

Pregnancy

Monitoring for several weeks

Routine pre-natal care

Delivery

The Professional Team

Surrogacy Agency

- Screens / matches you with a GC
- Journey coordination

Attorneys

- Draft contract between IPs and surrogate and between the IPs and egg donor
- Representation of all parties
- Establishment of parental rights

Fertility clinic / Reproductive Endocrinologist

- Medical screenings of all parties
- Clinics sometimes have an egg donation program
- Each of the IVF procedures : egg retrieval from the ED and embryo transfer into the GC, embryo biopsy, embryo freezing, and more.

Others

- Egg donation agency
- Immigration attorney
- Mental Health Professionals
- Genetic counselors
- Escrow
- Insurance Review

Working with an Agency

Finds, screens, and matches you with a surrogate

Liaison between you and your surrogate

Ensures all necessary steps are taken (insurance reviews, contracts, psychology reviews)

Coordinates with the clinic and other providers

Oversees the journey and helps guide you through

IVF Clinic

Screens all parties medical, egg donor, surrogate, and intended parents

Does the medical procedures to create the embryo and transfer the embryo to the surrogate

Monitors the egg donor and surrogate while they are cycling – at the clinic or in conjunction with local clinics

Ensures pregnancy is achieved and typically monitors until about 10 weeks gestation

Steps that Need a Lawyer

Contract with your egg donor

Contract with your surrogate

Parentage (typically pre-birth)

Post-birth (second parent adoption,
citizenship, travel documents)

Legal Steps before, during, and after the pregnancy

Wills and Health Care Proxies

Parentage

- Can happen pre or post birth depending on the birth state
- Will establish you as parents (very important!)

After the birth

- May need second parent adoption
- Citizenship, passports, and immigration

Questions for Your Surrogate and Egg Donor

Surrogate

- Selective Reduction/ Pregnancy Termination?
- Number of embryos to transfer?
- The location of your delivery?
- The level of relationship before, during and after?

Egg Donor

- The level of relationship?
- Genetic and family history?
- Timing

Questions for Your Providers

Agencies

- Timeline
- Costs
- Included services (legal, psychological support)
- Level of support
- Geographic location for surrogate

Clinics

- Timeline
- Costs
- Included services (testing, egg donors)
- Success rates
- Clinic locations and monitoring options

Full question sheet available in the handout section

Suggestions for a Smooth Journey

Relationships and Communication

- Your surrogate is not a "service provider"
- Her entire family is part of this journey
- Support from you and her family will boost her motivation
- Visit the surrogate and her family
- Adjust expectations, curb the need to control, and maintaining good communication
- Review MHB Framework for Ethical Guidelines for IPs

Stress and Support

- Uncertainty, financial strain, lack of control = stress
- Partners must understand each other's different vision, coping mechanisms, and sometimes even motivation levels
- Family / friends may support, but their expectations may also add stress
- A professional therapist may be very helpful!