



Fearless Surrogacy

Surrogacy Information Package



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Welcome to Fearless Surrogacy

Welcome to Fearless Surrogacy, we are so excited to be a part of your surrogacy journey with you. Whether you are an Intended Parent, or would like to be a Gestational Carrier (Surrogate) we hope you will find Fearless Surrogacy to be the right fit for you and your family.

The decision to grow a family through surrogacy is not one to be taken lightly. We have created this booklet to help you better understand what surrogacy involves, and what you can expect during your surrogacy journey at Fearless Surrogacy.

Fearless Surrogacy will be with you every step of the way. Both Intended Parents and Surrogates will be appointed a support worker to answer any questions you may have and to support you throughout this process. While surrogacy is a beautiful, rewarding experience, we also acknowledge the emotional toll it can have for everyone involved. We encourage you to reach out to your support worker whenever you have questions, concerns and/or need support.

We look forward to getting to know you and supporting you as you embark on the incredible journey of surrogacy.





Our Mission & Values

Our Mission:

To provide exceptional care and support for both Intended Parents and Surrogates on their surrogacy journey.

Our Vision:

To provide Intended Parents and Surrogates a community approach to growing families where all parties feel supported, cared for and heard.

Our Values:

Informed Decision- We believe both Intended Parents and Surrogates should be fully informed and aware of all aspects relating to their surrogacy journey. It is important to us that you feel supported in the decisions that are right for you and your journey.

Transparency- We believe transparency is a key factor for success. We will always do our best to provide clear communication, detailed reports and answer all of your questions so you are fully informed of every action taking place.

Honesty- We believe honesty is an essential building block to creating a trusting, open relationship. A surrogacy journey is such an intimate experience for both Intended Parents and Surrogates. We will always answer your questions and support you with honesty, and ask that you are honest and transparent as it relates to your journey as well.

Community Support- We believe in building a community around our Intended Parents and Surrogates. This means hosting events, classes and workshops (either in person or virtually) where you can meet with others who are on the same journey as you are. Our dedicated team will also be a part of your community to help you feel supported and ultimately thrive.

Education- We believe education is an integral part of your surrogacy journey. Our team will provide you with resources and information relevant to your needs, and be available to answer any questions via email or phone call in a timely manner. We feel it is important for you to be well educated to ensure you are making the right choices for your journey.

Mental Health Support- We believe in providing exceptional mental health support for both Intended Parents and Surrogates. Our in house counselling team, as well as our Surrogacy Support Workers and Intended Parent Support Workers will be available to you throughout your surrogacy journey.

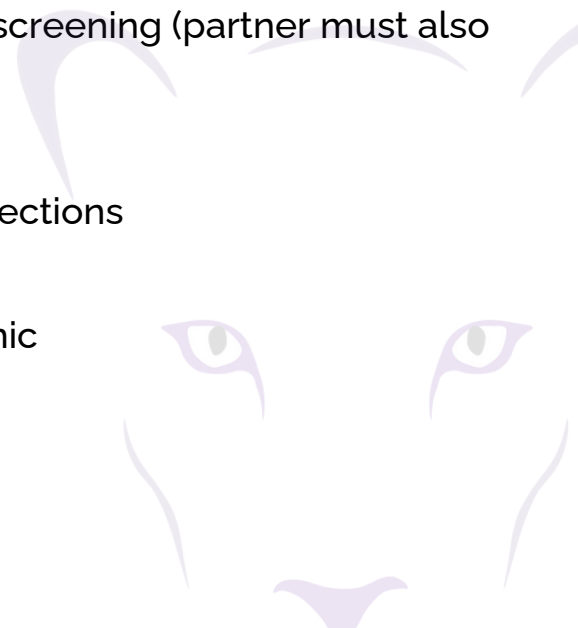


Surrogacy In Canada

Surrogacy in Canada works on an altruistic model. Surrogates cannot be paid to carry a pregnancy for Intended Parents, however they are reimbursed for all pregnancy related expenses. Surrogacy in Canada follows the Assisted Human Reproduction Act. To learn more about the Assisted Human Reproduction act go to : www.canada.ca

Requirements for Becoming a Surrogate

- Between the ages of 21-49
- Must be a Canadian Citizen/Permanent Resident
- Have delivered at least one child of your own (exceptions can be made on a case by case basis for individuals who have chosen to not have children of their own)
- No history of serious pregnancy complications
- Non-smoker including cannabis
- Non-drug user
- Financially stable
- Willing to undergo both medical and psychological screening (partner must also undergo screening)
- No serious health issues
- Willing to take IVF medication which may include injections
- Have support from family and friends
- Willing to travel to the Intended Parent(s) fertility clinic
- No criminal record





Risks & Considerations

There are many things to take into consideration before beginning your surrogacy journey. It is important to be aware of your own expectations and preferences and to establish what your boundaries are. We've compiled a list of a few things to consider before embarking on your surrogacy journey.

As Intended Parents

- Is your support system currently aware that you are considering a surrogacy journey?
- Are you financially prepared to undergo this journey?
- Do you currently have embryos created? If so, how many? Is there a possibility to create more?
- What are your thoughts on selective reduction in the event of multiples?
- What are your thoughts on termination?
- Would you like to be/are you able to be present for the birth?
- What kind of relationship would you like with your Surrogate throughout this journey?
- What kind of relationship would you like with your Surrogate after the birth?
- Is there a specific thing you are looking for in a Surrogate? (Eg. religious views)

As a Potential Surrogate

- Is your support system currently aware that you are considering becoming a Surrogate?
- What type of Intended Parent(s) would you want to carry for? (single, heterosexual, LGBTQ2S+, local, international)
- How do you feel about the time commitment that is required for a pregnancy?
- How do you feel about having to take medication for the IVF procedure?
- How do you feel about having to undergo medical screening?
- How do you feel about selective reduction in the event of unplanned multiples?
- How do you feel about termination?
- Are you comfortable with your Intended Parents attending the birth?
- What kind of relationship would you like to have with your Intended Parents throughout this journey?
- What kind of relationship would you like with your Intended Parents and the child after the birth?
- Is there something specific you are looking for in your Intended Parents? (Eg. lifestyle)



Reimbursements

While Surrogates cannot be paid to carry a pregnancy in Canada, Surrogates are reimbursed for all pregnancy related expenses they may encounter during their pregnancy. Your actual reimbursements will be outlined in a legal contract that your lawyer will prepare and will vary depending on a Surrogate's needs, but below are some examples of what you can expect to reimburse.

Legal Fees

Basic Monthly Reimbursement (\$25 000 - \$30 000)

*this is spread over the duration of pregnancy

Fertility Clinic Fees (paid directly to the clinic)

IVF and Pregnancy Medication

IVF Transfer Support (Eg. Acupuncture)

Genetic Testing

Multiple Pregnancy Expenses

Invasive Procedure Expenses (eg. C-section, hysterectomy, reduction, etc.)

Travel Expenses

Lodging Expenses

Bedrest Expenses (on a weekly basis)

Lost wages

Life Insurance

Doula Fees

Counselling Support





Connecting

Finding the right Intended Parent(s)/Surrogate is an important part of your surrogacy journey with Fearless Surrogacy. All Intended Parent(s) and Surrogates will be connected to a Fearless Counsellor in preparation to being welcomed into the agency. It is important to us to ensure we are the right fit for both Intended Parents and Surrogates and to establish a supportive relationship from the beginning.

Once welcomed into our agency, Surrogates will have the opportunity to view our Intended Parent profiles. We have created a user-friendly database to share information on our Intended Parents, catalogued by date of intake. Once a Surrogate has shown interest in Intended Parents, the Surrogate's profile will be shared with the Intended Parents. Once both the Intended Parent(s) and the Surrogate have agreed they feel this may be the right connection, Fearless Surrogacy will introduce everyone.

Fearless is happy to facilitate a meeting via zoom with the Surrogate, Intended Parent(s), and both support workers if needed. Intended Parent(s) and Surrogates are encouraged to communicate and get to know each other. Once both Intended Parents and Surrogates feel this is the correct fit for everyone, Fearless will send information to the Intended Parent(s) fertility clinic to start the screening process.

***Remember it is incredibly important to feel certain in your choice of Surrogate/Intended Parent(s). Your support worker as well as counsellor will be available to help navigate all outcomes. ***





Screening

Once a Surrogate and Intended Parents agree to move forward together, the Surrogate will undergo medical screening. This is typically done at the fertility clinic chosen by the Intended Parent(s). The Surrogate will be required to undergo a physical exam, a sonohysterogram, an ultrasound and bloodwork. As part of the medical screening a Surrogate and their partner (if applicable) will also be required to do bloodwork for sexually transmitted infections and a toxicology screening. The Surrogate and their partner (if applicable) will also be required to undergo a psychological screening. If this is not conducted at the clinic, Fearless can arrange for this to be completed with your Fearless counsellor.

Intended Parent(s) will also be required to undergo a psychological and physical screening to proceed with their surrogacy journey. Fearless is happy to help coordinate this assessment for Intended Parent(s) if this is not conducted at their current clinic.

To ensure the mental health needs of each party is fully supported, both Intended Parents and Surrogates will be highly encouraged to attend additional counselling sessions throughout their surrogacy journey at no additional costs to Intended Parent(s).

If the medical screening determines the Surrogate is able to become a Surrogate, Intended Parents and Surrogates will be given the go ahead to have legal contracts created to support their journey.

Both Intended Parents and Surrogates have separate legal representation to ensure both are represented and well informed of their role within this agreement.



Frequently Asked Questions

- Does the Surrogate choose the Intended Parents or do the Intended Parents choose the Surrogate?
 - The Surrogate will have access to Fearless Surrogacy's Intended Parent database. From there they can indicate which Intended Parents they see as a potential connection. The Intended Parent(s) will have a chance to review the Surrogate's profile as well to confirm the connection and begin their dating phase of their journey. If at any point the Surrogate or the Intended Parent(s) indicate the connection no longer feels like a good fit, communication will cease and both parties may begin a new search for a potential connection. Fearless is happy to offer mediation.. The Intended Parent(s) will have a chance to review the Surrogate's profile as well to confirm the connection and begin their dating phase of their journey. If at any point the Surrogate or the Intended Parent(s) indicate the connection no longer feels like a good fit, communication will cease and both parties may begin a new search for a potential connection. Fearless is happy to offer mediation.
- Is the baby genetically linked to the Surrogate?
 - There are 2 types of Surrogates. A gestational Surrogate has no genetic link to the child. An embryo is transferred through IVF where the egg and sperm are from the Intended Parent(s) and/or donor(s). A traditional Surrogate uses their own eggs. *Currently Fearless does not support traditional surrogacy journeys but is happy to refer you to an agency that does.*
- Does the Surrogate have a choice in the medical care provider?
 - A Surrogate is typically followed by the fertility clinic for their first trimester after which care is transferred. Surrogates typically have a choice in who their healthcare provider will be including the option of having a midwife follow their journey.



- **Does the Surrogate have to take medication for the IVF process?**
 - Surrogates are required to take medication for the IVF procedure. Their IVF protocol will be discussed during their screening process. Protocols vary depending on clinics as well as a Surrogate's medical history. If at any point a Surrogate has questions or concerns, Fearless has fertility doulas as well as access to a Naturopathic Doctor who can help explain to process and answer questions.
- **What happens if a Surrogate is put on a bed rest?**
 - Surrogacy contracts explain in detail what happens to Surrogates in the event of bed rest. The Surrogate will be required to have a medical note from the ordering medical professional. The Surrogate will be able to access additional reimbursements to ensure they and their family are well cared for while they are on bed rest. Fearless Surrogacy also provides additional supports and resources to ensure our Surrogates are supported through bed rest.
- **What happens if the Surrogate has to have a c-section or hysterectomy?**
 - In the event of a c-section or the unfortunate event of a hysterectomy, Surrogates are able to access additional reimbursements to ensure they are given adequate time and help to heal. Fearless Surrogacy also has supports and resources readily available to ensure our Surrogates are supported through a c-section as well as a hysterectomy.
- **What happens in the event of a multiple birth?**
 - In the event of a multiple birth (ie. twins or triplets) additional reimbursements will be allotted to the Surrogate. Selective reduction in the case of a higher number of multiples will be outlined and agreed upon by the Intended Parents and Surrogate in their surrogacy contract.
- **Where is the baby born?**
 - A child born via surrogacy is typically born where the Surrogate lives. Intended Parents often travel a few weeks prior to the estimated due date and spend time locally awaiting the arrival of their baby.



Why Fearless Surrogacy?

Fearless Surrogacy believes in offering consistent, multi-dynamic and exceptional support for both Intended Parents and Surrogates. We are confident Fearless Surrogacy can support you in your journey to parenthood and to becoming a Surrogate. Fearless Surrogacy offers the following:

- A well established team of practitioners with various backgrounds, all with a passion for helping families grow
- Dedicated Intended Parent and Surrogate Support Workers
- Exceptional mental health support throughout your journey
- Community- including events, workshops and online support groups for both Intended Parents and Surrogates
- Prenatal education specifically created for Intended Parents including infant care
- Personal experience with infertility, fertility treatments, IVF procedure, pregnancy loss as well as surrogacy
- Knowledge of medical requirements and procedures
- Multiple points of contact
- 24/7 Emergency contact
- In-depth intake of Surrogates and Intended Parents
- Physical Location
- Direction and support at every step of the journey
- Mediation services
- Very specific and clear Intended Parent and Surrogate profiles
- Support for Intended Parents on how to best present their profile including education on:
 - How to make videos
 - writing/editing story
 - How to take great pictures
 - Examples on how to make a profile public if desired.





Next Steps

Before beginning a surrogacy journey, we encourage you to reflect on your reasons for choosing surrogacy.

Becoming a Surrogate will require a commitment of your time, and understanding that for some Intended Parents, surrogacy is only a piece of their fertility journey. Some Intended Parents have had to face the pain and heartache of infertility, loss and grieving the idea of a typical pregnancy journey. To avoid further heartache, we ask that you carefully consider your willingness and ability to become a Surrogate.

As Intended Parents, we want you to fully understand your commitment to this journey as well. Your Surrogate is offering a commitment of their time, lifestyle, and in some cases physical well-being. The relationship between Intended Parents and Surrogates is one that must be based on mutual respect, understanding and great care.

We look forward to meeting you and discussing your surrogacy journey with Fearless Surrogacy.

