



COLLECTIVE  
SURROGACY

## - Surrogate Frequently Asked Questions -

### **ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible to become a surrogate, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- Has delivered a child of their own and raising at least 1 child now
- Between the ages of **21-43**
- Have a Body Mass Index (BMI) lower than **35**
- No significant pregnancy or delivery complications
- No more than **5** deliveries or **3** c-sections
- No significant medical history or current treatment harmful to pregnancy
- No significant history of mental health treatment
- Financially stable and not on public assistance
- No criminal record
- Must have a support system
- Willing to travel for medical screening and embryo transfer
- Passionate about helping bring a child into this world for another family

### **SCREENING**

**What screening is required before I match?** Screening includes providing access to your medical records and undergoing a background check and virtual meeting with a psychologist. The agency covers these pre-screening costs. You must also have an up-to-date physical exam and pap smear.

**What screening is required after I match?** After you match, you will have a final medical screening visit at the parents' fertility clinic for infectious disease screening and a uterine ultrasound. This final screening will be an overnight trip.

**How long does screening take?** For those ready to move ahead right away, the screening process generally takes 6-8 weeks. We will not pressure you to go faster than you are comfortable with, so the pace is very much up to you.

**Is there screening required of my spouse/partner?** Your spouse or live-in partner must also undergo a background check and attend the virtual meeting with the psychologist. They will also undergo infectious disease screening locally.

**Can I be a surrogate if I have a tubal ligation?** YES! Your uterine function and hormone production are unaffected by a tubal ligation.



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### MATCHING

**What are your requirements for intended parents?** Intended parents must undergo a background check and psychological counseling in order to join our program. We also require that they already have embryos created, are working with a U.S. fertility clinic, will be transferring only one embryo per transfer, and want an open relationship with their surrogate.

**How does matching work?** This is the exciting part, and the most important! We have a list of intended parents waiting to be matched. Profiles are exchanged between you, and the CS team then facilitates a virtual match meeting. Both the intended parents and surrogate must agree that it's a match. It is of course important that everyone shares the same values and expectations, and our goal is to find the perfect match for each surrogate and intended parent in hopes of forming a lifelong relationship.

**How long does it take to be matched?** Matching can happen very quickly, but we also understand each surrogates' circumstances are different and will work to match you according to your desired timeline. For those ready to match, you should expect to be matched within 1-4 weeks from becoming qualified.

### TIMELINES

**How long does the whole process take?** On average, prescreening takes 2 months, matching takes 1 month, legal contracts and final medical clearance take 3-4 months, and the embryo transfer cycle is 6-8 weeks, so the overall timeline from start to the first embryo transfer is **7-9 months**.

**At what points does compensation start to be paid?** This is also detailed on our Surrogate Roadmap, however it is important to point out that our payment schedule does begin earlier than most agencies. Our goal is to tie compensation more closely to the time and commitment you are being asked to give at each stage of the journey, versus tying it to pregnancy only.



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### FINANCIALS

**When do I begin to receive payments?** You begin to receive fee payments right away after completion of legal contracts and final medical clearance and receive payments monthly for most months thereafter.

**How much am I paid to be a surrogate?** First time surrogates receive fees totaling \$43,000+ plus additional benefits and all expenses paid. Experienced surrogates receive \$8,000+ additional compensation. Our compensation amount is competitive and acknowledges the incredible commitment required of each surrogate while also being mindful of the ever-rising cost of surrogacy for intended parents who rely on this process to build their family.

**How are the funds secured?** The parents are required to place your fee and anticipated expense amounts in an account with a professional escrow service BEFORE the first embryo transfer is scheduled. It is required that the balance always remains sufficient to cover your remaining fee payments and anticipated expenses.

**Who handles my expense and fee payments?** Your CS coordinator monitors to ensure all of your payments are paid timely and correctly from the escrow account that holds funds for this purpose. You are also able to monitor payments via an online portal and payments are sent via ACH directly to your account (unless a different payment method is requested).

**Is there a risk that I may get stuck with unpaid bills?** We offer protection against this instead of leaving you solely with that risk, as most agencies do. We are committed to ensuring each of our surrogate's bills are paid in full and on time, and our requirements for what funds the parents need to place in escrow at what points offer CS surrogates top financial protection. You should never feel worried that your family may lose money for giving this gift.

### TRAVEL

**Is travel required?** Travel is required for most surrogates. Parents choose their fertility clinic based on success rates, costs, and other important factors. Our intended parents work with some of the top fertility clinics in the U.S..

**How many trips are required?** You should plan on two trips - one for medical screening (overnight trip, typically without a companion) and one for embryo transfer (typically a 3-4 day trip). You choose a companion to travel with you for all transfers at the parents' expense. CS arranges all travel for you and all costs are paid in advance.



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### **LEGAL**

**Is there a contract between me and the parents?** Yes. The surrogacy contract outlines all financial and other key terms for the process between you and the parents. This will be the first step after you and the parents match.

**Who represents me in the contract process?** Both parties have their own attorney **outside the agency** who represents them during the contract phase. Our Founder & Owner is a highly experienced family formation attorney and has facilitated over 1,000 contracts between parents and surrogates. She does not represent either side in the CS contract process, but she does oversee the process on behalf of both parties to be sure it is facilitated positively and collaboratively and that everyone gets the support they need.

**What is the process to get the parents' names on the birth certificate?** This varies depending on the state, but the general requirement from the surrogate and her spouse (if applicable) is to sign legal documents that the parents' attorney then submits to have signed by a judge. This order will result in the parents' names being placed on the birth certificate. In some states a court hearing is required, however these are private and very straightforward. These steps may happen during pregnancy or immediately after the birth. In all cases, the parents will have authority and sole responsibility to care for the child immediately upon the birth.

### **EMBRYO TRANSFER**

**What appointments are required before and after the embryo transfer?** You will have bloodwork and ultrasounds both before and after the transfer. Before the transfer, you typically attend 2-3 early morning appointments to check your hormone levels and uterine lining. After transfer, you will have appointments to confirm pregnancy via blood test (1-3 weeks post-transfer) and ultrasound (5-7 weeks post-transfer). Your CS coordinator will be here to support you and to schedule all of your appointments.

**How does the embryo transfer procedure work?** A catheter is inserted into your cervix and the physician then implants the embryo into the uterine lining, guided by a small camera. You will need a companion with you for the transfer and to support you for overnight bed rest before you return home.



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### MEDICATIONS

**Am I required to take medications?** Yes, this is an important requirement to maximize the success of the embryo transfer. Some of these medications are administered via injections (typically called “progesterone in oil”) to prepare your uterine lining to receive the embryo. The medications will begin a few weeks prior to your embryo transfer and continue until several weeks after, depending on the clinic. The fertility clinic team will go over these medications to make sure you know how and when to administer them.

### SUPPORT

**What is required of my support system?** It is very important that surrogates have a strong support system. They will play a vital role to help with your absences during travel and appointments, to support you during pregnancy, and to offer emotional and mental support. In addition, although most surrogate pregnancies are healthy and normal, each pregnancy has the potential for complications, bed rest, etc. Your contract will provide for financial support in the event of those low-risk outcomes. Your CS coordinator and team is of course also an additional support for you every step of the way, no matter the twists and turns the process may take.

**What support does CS provide?** You will have two main points of contact in your journey - our Surrogate Coordinator (a two-time past surrogate) and our Program Coordinator. Our team is dedicated and responsive so that you always have somewhere to turn with your questions. We are also proactive so that you always know what is coming up next and what to expect. Our goal is to remove as much of the administrative “busy work” and stress as we can so that you are free to enjoy the journey to the fullest! There is really no step of the process that our team won’t be fully involved in facilitating for you.