



More Frequently Asked Questions

Millions of people are affected by infertility and are unable to have a child on their own. Sometimes, their last resort is using a surrogate mother. Becoming a surrogate mother is a very big decision to make. Not only would you be putting your body through pregnancy, but your family and friends will also be going through the experience with you. There are many things to consider before becoming a surrogate mother, so here are our most frequently asked questions from women before starting their surrogacy journey.

1. I have my tubes tied (tubal ligation). Can I still become a surrogate mother?

The answer is yes. You will hear and see the term “gestational carrier” a lot. This means that the baby is not your biological baby. Your eggs will not be used for the surrogacy, but instead an embryo will be transferred to you. All surrogacies through Open Arms Consultants are gestational surrogacies only. Having had tubal ligation will not keep you from being qualified as a surrogate mother.

2. I don't have private insurance. Do I need to have my own insurance to be a surrogate mother?

No, you do not need to have your own insurance to become a surrogate mother. We explore many financial options for the intended parents, but it is not a requirement for you to have private insurance coverage.

3. Will I have to travel if I'm a surrogate?

The only travel that may need to happen will be to the intended parent's fertility clinic for an initial consultation with their fertility doctor and then again for the transfer. The fertility clinic will be located in the United States. Once you are confirmed pregnant, your prenatal care will be with your OB/Gyn and you will deliver at your hospital. The intended parents will travel to you for the prenatal care and delivery.

4. Will I have to pay for anything?

The intended parents are responsible for all expenses related to the surrogacy. However, there may be minimal out-of-pocket expenses that you may incur such as the cost to pick up birth control pills from your pharmacy. You will be reimbursed for any expenses related to surrogacy.

5. How much is the compensation?



With Open Arms Consultants, the base compensation for a first-time surrogate mother is \$25,000. In addition to that amount, you will receive \$700 or more for maternity clothes, a monthly allowance of \$200 once you are pregnant (or as indicated in your contract), and other amounts of compensation depending on circumstances. Visit our website to read more about the OAC Surrogate Mother Benefit Package.

6. When will I be paid my compensation?

With the OAC Surrogate Mother Benefit Package, you will receive \$500 for starting fertility medications and \$500 for the embryo transfer. The contract will indicate when you will receive the next disbursements and their amount, the bulk being received after the delivery.

7. What happens if the intended parents change their minds?

First, it's important to remember that the intended parents have had a long struggle to have a baby on their own. They are fully committed to having a baby if they are at the point of choosing a surrogate. It is not only a huge emotional investment for them, but also a financial one. Both you and the intended parents will undergo a psychological evaluation to make sure everyone is mentally prepared for the journey. The legal contract between you and the intended parents is the most vital part of the surrogacy. Safety measures are taken in the surrogacy contract with the intended parents, including relieving you of any responsibility of the child.

8. How does the process work?

Surrogacy is a very involved process. The pregnancy ends up being the easy part! Here is a brief overview: It all starts with the application. Once you are approved, you will be matched with intended parents based that seem to be a "best fit" for you. After the match, you will travel to the intended parents fertility clinic for an appointment to be medically cleared by the fertility doctor. Once you are cleared, the contract will be completed between you and the intended parents. Don't worry, you will have your own legal representation for that part so you are protected. When the contracts are complete, you will begin the fertility medications that will get you ready for the embryo transfer. A few weeks after the transfer, you will have a blood tests and an ultrasound to confirm your pregnancy! At that point, you will be released to your ob/gyn for prenatal care and then deliver at your hospital.

9. Will I get to choose the intended parents that I want to work with?



Absolutely. One of the most important successful factors of a surrogacy journey has to do with the relationship between you and the intended parents. During the application process, we will find out what types of intended parents you are willing to work with, the level of contact you are comfortable with, and other information that will help us find your intended parents. Based on what we learn from you and the what we know from the intended parents, we present profiles to both you and the intended parents that we feel will be a “good fit”. If like the profile of the intended parents, we take the next important step in the matching process and schedule a conference call, video conference, or an in-person meeting to allow you to ask questions and get to know the intended parents. It’s not until after that meeting that you let us know if you are excited to move forward with them or you would like to be introduced to other intended parents instead.

10. Do I have to travel if the intended parents are from another country?

You will never have to travel to another country for surrogacy. Some travel may be required in the United States, but it will be minimal. Surrogacy is illegal in many countries, so if intended parents needed a surrogate mother, they wouldn’t be able to use one. Since that is the case for many, they travel to the United States and seek services with fertility clinics and take advantage of the surrogate friendly laws that vary from state to state.

Have more questions? Visit us at www.oacfl.com for more information or contact Heather, our Intake Coordinator at (941) 741-4994 or email her at heather@oacfl.com.