



# Surrogacy

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# History of Surrogacy

- The idea of surrogacy has been around for a long time
  - \* Chapter 16 of the Book of Genesis
  - \* Attorney Noel Keane teamed with Dr. Warren J. Ringold to start the first surrogacy clinic (1981)

# Reasons for Surrogacy

- \* female infertility/medical issues
- \* single male/female wants to have children
- \* homosexual couples who cannot adopt because of legal issues
- \* healthy female who does not want to go through labor/delivery

# Egg Donation & Procedure

- \* 10-16 eggs are acquired from a woman
- \* Risks of egg donor include:
  - \* excessive bleeding
  - \* 10% suffer from Ovarian Hyper Stimulation Syndrome
  - \* early menopause
  - \* increased risk of ovarian cancer
  - \* a bad reaction to the hormones used to bring about hyperovulation



# Surrogate Mothers

- \* **Genetic mother** (traditional method): the mother is pregnant with her biological child but it is intended that the child will be raised by others
  - \* sexual intercourse
  - \* artificial insemination
  - \* intracervical insemination
- \* **Gestational surrogacy** (host method): woman becomes pregnant through an embryo transfer
  - \* more popular
- \* **Altruistic surrogacy**: mother receives no financial award
- \* **Commercial surrogacy**: surrogate mother is paid



# Surrogates

- \* surrogate mothers are carefully examined
  - \* relatives
  - \* friends
  - \* strangers
- \* some agencies require surrogate mothers are required to be married and have children of their own
- \* **surrogate agencies:** help set up a legal agreement between mothers who will be surrogates for a fee and another party

## Typical Surrogate Profile:

- Female: 21 to 40 years old
- Mother of at least two children
- 13 years of formal education
- 75 percent are married
- One-third are employed full-time
- Most are Christian, 25 percent are Catholic



# Surrogate Agencies

- \* handle the medical/legal aspects
- \* price of the procedure:  
\$75,000-\$90,000+
- \* payment a surrogate mother receives:  
\$25,000-\$50,000



*As heartless as this might sound, I don't feel attached to this baby. You know, from day one, that this baby's not yours and that it's someone else's so you kinda just don't attach yourself.*

—Kim, surrogate

# Commercial Surrogacy

- \* This method is banned in some European countries and highly controlled in the U.S.
  - \* PlanetHospital: send 100+ couples to India in 2008
- \* India: the practice of surrogacy has been legal since 2002 and is becoming an industry
  - \* Cost for the whole procedure is \$25,000: 1/3 of the price in America
  - \* Most Indian women don't smoke, drink, or do drugs to minimize the chance of prenatal and postnatal complications





# Risks: Surrogate Mothers

- \* risks common in natural pregnancies
- \* hyperovulation syndrome
- \* diabetes
- \* high blood pressure
- \* fetal reduction
- \* multiple pregnancies (mother under 35 years old)
- \* gestational surrogacy: risk of hepatitis or AIDs
- \* babies that are born from surrogate mothers are often underweight and are more likely to have abnormalities
- \* emotional problems may arise



# Legal Issues

- print name of parents on birth certificate before birth
- \* California: no law that directly addresses surrogacy
  - \* several cases have been presented to the court
  - \* rule based on “intent of the parties”
- \* Colorado: no laws and no published cases

# Ethical Issues

- \* Exploitation: rich foreigners “renting” a womb of poor Indian
- \* can also be seen as two people helping each other out
- \* surrogate mothers aren’t paid enough in India

# Things to Consider...

- \* surrogate mothers usually do NOT have difficulty giving away a child
- \* there are methods to prevent a surrogate mother from becoming too emotionally attached



\* “...it seems it’s always rich white couples playing for the services of poor young women...surrogacy seems to perpetuate the commodification of white children.”

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-Miriam Erez

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