

# Surrogacy FAQs



PHYSICIAN'S  
SURROGACY

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Thank you for becoming a Family Building Partner with us! To learn more about the program or find a specific answer, please scroll down and review the compensation, requirements, and the most commonly asked questions.

We're also standing by on live chat so if you have a question you can't find an answer to, just ask!

### How Surrogacy Works

There is NO genetic relationship between the baby and the surrogate

Our surrogacy agency exclusively offers Gestational Surrogacy, which is the process by which a fertilized embryo is implanted in a surrogate, who will carry the resulting child to term.

### Surrogate Compensation

We believe transparency about compensation is essential

Traditionally, surrogacy compensation is a combination of a base amount plus a variable benefits package, which can be confusing.

We have thoughtfully designed our compensation plan with transparency in mind, which is why our Surrogates get paid an absolute fixed amount. The compensation is divided into equal lump sum monthly payments helping our Surrogates understand their benefits and financially plan.

Here is an overview of our compensation plan. Once your referral completes their application, they can ask their coordinator questions about compensation and they can even show them ways to increase their earnings.



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## First Time Surrogates Earn

\* Experienced Surrogates earn more

State	Employed	Unemployed
Southern California	<b>\$ 60,000</b>	<b>\$ 53,500</b>
Northern California, Nevada	<b>\$ 55,000</b>	<b>\$ 48,500</b>
Arizona, Colorado, DC, Illinois, Florida, New Jersey, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Delaware, Maryland, Oregon and Washington	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	<b>\$ 43,500</b>

## What are Our Surrogate Qualifications?

Be 21 to 37 years old

Have at least one child of their own

Have a BMI under 32

Be able to pass a background screening

Be a U.S. Citizen or a U.S. Permanent Resident



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## What You Need to Know About Surrogacy.

### **Can I be a Surrogate if I am a single parent?**

Yes. We believe single mothers are just as capable of being Surrogates as a woman who is married. If you are single, it is very important that you have some type of support system in place prior to committing to any Surrogate program.

### **Can I be a Surrogate if I don't have health insurance?**

Whether you have insurance or not, a Surrogate-specific insurance plan will be purchased for you by the Intended Parents for the duration of your pregnancy. All medical bills are handled by our accounting department.

### **What is a Gestational Surrogate?**

A gestational surrogate is a woman who becomes pregnant using an embryo created by the process of in vitro fertilization (IVF). Pregnancy may be achieved using the mother's eggs and the father's sperm. Donor eggs or donor sperm can also be used. There will be no genetic relationship to the Surrogate.

### **Why should I choose Physician's Surrogacy instead of other agencies or independent surrogacy?**

Surrogacy is a medical process which is why we believe that you should have full medical support during your pregnancy. While other agencies are managed by previous Surrogates or past Intended Parents, we are an OB managed agency. Previous Surrogates and past Intended Parents may understand the emotional aspects of surrogacy but often lack the clinical background and business skills to efficiently manage the complexities of a pregnancy process. We pay the highest compensation for first time Surrogates in the industry. While other agencies advertise high compensation amounts, you will find out after going through their application process that the advertised amount is not what you will be offered. We are very transparent about the compensation and make sure that you understand from the beginning what your financial situation will be during this journey with us. Transparency is crucial when it comes to money and our approach gives you financial clarity from the start.

### **Will I be biologically related to the baby I am carrying?**

No, you will NOT be biologically related to the baby that you are carrying for the Intended Parents. As a Gestational Surrogate, your eggs will NOT be used. It will be the eggs of either the Intended Mother or the Egg Donor that is being used.



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## **Will the birth certificate have my and/or my husband's names on it?**

Your name and your husband/spouse's name will NOT be on the birth certificate. The Intended Parents will be the ones who will have full parental rights to the baby and it will be their names that appear on the birth certificate.

## **Can I start the process if I'm breastfeeding?**

Unfortunately, we require surrogates to be done with breastfeeding for at least one month before beginning the surrogacy process.

## **Can I start the process if I'm on birth control?**

Yes. Birth control does not prevent you from being a surrogate. Our surrogate case managers will be able to go over the process during your phone interview.

## **How long does it take until I am matched?**

This is dependent on each case, but typically one day to two weeks. The length of the process depends on your responsiveness and availability. After your initial application, we will call you to talk about the surrogacy process and answer any questions you may have. We will then send you our compensation package and other documents. Once these documents are returned, it typically takes our Intended Parent team less than two weeks to find a match.

## **Do I get to choose the Intended Parent(s) I will be working with?**

Yes, during your second intake interview we will gather criteria that will help us find Intended Parents that match your preferences. Once the Intended Parent(s) reviews your profile and shares an interest in working with you, we will reach out to you and coordinate a call or video chat. After speaking/meeting, both parties will communicate to Physician's Surrogacy if they wish to work together. Once both parties agree, it will be considered a match.

## **How much contact occurs during the journey?**

The amount of contact varies case by case. Contact is determined by the Surrogate Mother and the Intended Parent(s)'s preferences identified during the matching process. Some cultures are a little more closed off than others; however, the relationship and communication develops as the journey progresses.

## **Is there anything required of my spouse/partner?**

During the initial screening process, we will require a background check of anyone over the age of 18 that lives in your household. If you are married, both you and your spouse will need to sign the acceptance agreement and will be included in your legal contract. During the medical screening process, your partner/spouse will be required to provide a blood and urine sample. Your partner will play a significant role as part of your support team during your surrogacy journey.



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## **Now that I have applied, how long does it take until the embryo is transferred?**

It is usually about 2-6 months until the embryo is transferred. We will bring you in for a medical screening and set up a psychological evaluation. Once you agree to your match, you will enter into the legal contracts phase (where you will be provided with your own legal counsel). The clinic will begin a cycle calendar for you, and instruct you to begin hormone injections.

## **What happens if the Intended Parents are not able to pick up the child once it is born?**

Our agency makes sure that power of attorneys are in place, well before the birth of the baby. This power of attorney gives a Newborn Care Nanny the legal guardianship rights and care for the baby until the Intended Parents are able to pick up the child. With the power of attorneys in place Physician's Surrogacy ensures that the surrogates will never have to care for the baby after giving birth under any circumstances.

## **Can I go to my own OB once I am pregnant?**

Yes, provided that your OB accepts the health insurance being utilized for the pregnancy. Together, you and the intended parents will decide upon the physician that cares for you during pregnancy. Many surrogates use the physician that delivered their own children.

## **I had my tubes tied. Can I still serve as a gestational surrogate?**

Yes you can! The fallopian tubes are not used, instead, the embryo(s) are placed directly into the Surrogate's uterus during the embryo transfer phase.

## **What if I am still overweight from my last pregnancy?**

Being overweight does not necessarily disqualify you from being a surrogate. The IVF physician that performs your medical evaluation will make this determination. If you are considered to be obese, you may not qualify. If this is a concern for you, please call our office and speak with a representative.

## **What are the health risks as a Surrogate Mother?**

As there are risks with a regular pregnancy, there are no additional risks with a surrogate pregnancy. Please consult with your OB to talk about normal pregnancy risks.

## **Where will I be receiving my medical care during my pregnancy and where will I be delivering the baby?**

After the first trimester, your physician will release you to your local OB doctor. Your local OB will oversee your medical care for the remainder of your pregnancy. If you need a new OB doctor, then we can provide you with recommendations. You will be able to deliver at a hospital that is local to you.



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## **Will I be taking injections?**

Gestational Surrogates need to prepare their bodies for the embryo transfer; injections are required in order to help your uterus accept the embryo. The medical team will help you throughout your injectable period by providing a calendar with a clear timetable and dosages. Typically, the injections will be required through the first trimester

## **Does this cost me anything?**

No. Medical expenses, Surrogate benefits, legal fees, and travel expenses are all handled by the Intended Parents.

## **How are finances handled?**

All funds related to your surrogacy will be held in a trust account that is managed by or an experienced escrow company, so that all monies due for your surrogate fees and reimbursement of related expenses are paid in a timely manner. All financial matters will be handled by the surrogacy agency, removing this component from your relationship with the intended parents.

## **What are the advantages of this type of compensation structure?**

"This compensation structure fosters a groundbreaking concept in which all parties mutually benefit.

## **For Surrogates:**

Our surrogates are paid more with a fixed compensation package than with a line item package. Surrogates are paid more up front during the beginning of their journey. In most cases, our surrogates can earn 4-5k+ even before confirmation of pregnancy (COP) Less tedious paperwork: we eliminate the need for submitting miscellaneous expenses such as childcare, mileage, pay stubs and instead entrust you with the reimbursement of your expenses.

## **For Intended Parents:**

Straightforward compensation - they know up front what they will be paying and can plan accordingly. Takes into consideration the additional expenses incurred such as travel and monitoring expenses in different regions."

## **What constitutes employed vs unemployed?**

To be considered employed, you must have a gross annual income of \$15,000. Employment is verified by pay stubs and/or a tax return.

## **What is the compensation package? How much am I getting paid?**

Once you complete your online application, a surrogate coordinator will contact you to discuss the surrogacy journey in more detail and provide you with a more detailed explanation of our compensation package. General compensation information can be found on this page.



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Our compensation structure ensures our surrogates are paid an absolute, fixed amount. We want prospective surrogates to be educated on all facets of the journey and also know that their unique situation will translate to a clear, financial end result.

## **Why are employed Surrogates compensated at a higher rate than unemployed?**

Surrogates who are employed may be entitled to lost wages through the state. Since we realize this may be a factor, we have decided to include a stipend for lost wages at the outset. We believe whether it's needed or not, the money will be there and we leave it up to you how to best allocate those funds. Should you need to file with the EDD, we leave that to your discretion. Although lost wages are already included in your compensation package, this does not preclude you from filing directly with EDD for lost wage benefits.

## **Why does compensation vary from state to state?**

For local Surrogates, travel and other expenses are much less for the intended parents based on proximity to our southern California location. Additionally, as does cost of living, average surrogacy compensation also varies greatly from state to state.

## **Do I have to travel?**

You likely won't have to travel anytime soon. The entire application process including intake is done through the phone. The only time you will have to travel is once you get matched with an Intended Parent. There are options for electing for matches within driving distance. While it may reduce your options, you would be in control of the travel method.

## **How will the current travel restrictions affect my application process?**

It won't. There is a pre-screening process that can be done remotely and will be completed prior to moving forward and becoming a Surrogate. When presented with a possible match with Intended Parents, you will learn where their IVF center is located and have the option to accept or decline the match. Travel, if any is required, would not take place until the last phase, the full medical screening.

## **What does the timeline look like?**

The application process is quick. Fill out an application and find out within 72 hours if you're eligible. The phone interview is brief which allows you to ask all of your questions and discuss your preferences. Pre Screening: (background, OB record review and preliminary lab work) can all be done remotely near your home

## **Would my chances of getting coronavirus be increased from becoming a Surrogate?**

If anything, the chances of acquiring coronavirus are greater in the grocery store, at work or at a gas station. IVF centers and OB offices are not the types of doctor offices that people go to when they are seeking treatment for non-pregnancy related illnesses. Extra precautions are taken in these sterile environments and include increased screening and testing.



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## **What happens if there are travel restrictions in place for the Intended Parents to come to the U.S.?**

As of 9/15/2020 direct travel is no longer as limited as it was before. With the current new travel guidelines Intended Parents from all countries can enter the U.S. and apply for visas if necessary that will be granted on an "emergency basis". With the birth of their baby, surrogacy is labelled an emergency which removes the travel ban that a lot of countries had previously. If the Intended Parents are still unable to come to the United States a Newborn Care Nanny has legal guardianship through a power of attorney to care for the child until the Intended Parents can pick up their baby. Our Surrogates never have to care for the baby under any circumstances.

## **Physician's Surrogacy is not JUST an Agency**

Physician's Surrogacy is the only physician-managed, all-inclusive surrogacy agency. With dedicated physicians managing your referral's journey from selection to beyond delivery, we provide an unparalleled advantage over the traditional agency model. Our team of physicians and other medical professionals work diligently to ensure a smooth journey.

## **Surrogacy 101**

Everything you need to know about becoming a Surrogate with Physician's Surrogacy. There's a lot to learn. This comprehensive info session covers all aspects of surrogacy, from the requirements to the process, compensation, considerations when selecting an agency, and the experiences of other women who have given this incredible gift.

This video will be available to your candidates when they click the referral link. If they have questions, invite them to watch it with their partner or support system. We're standing by on live chat to answer your questions and theirs. - <https://vimeo.com/438987814>

