

I'm Having Their Baby:

A Guide for the Gestational Surrogate



By: Latashia S. Alexander

PUBLISHED BY INSTANTPUBLISHER.COM

Copyright © 2006 by Latashia S. Alexander

All Rights Reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form, except for the inclusion of brief quotations in review, without permission in writing from the author.

COVER Photography & Design by
Dawn Baranski of In the Light Photography
www.inthelightphototx.com

COVER models
Lanessa Moshay
www.3images.org

Denise K.
Korrey Alexander

EDITED by
Anita Adeeko Cook

ISBN 1-59872-697-8

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*Dedicated with lots of LOVE
to*

MY SURRO-FAMILY NEAR & FAR

Your LOVE for life and family has inspired me
more than you will ever know

Visit my site at www.surrogatefamilies.org

Table of Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>		vi
<i>Part I</i>	<i>The Decision</i>	
CHAPTER 1	What is Gestational Surrogacy?	2
CHAPTER 2	Is Your Family Complete?	5
CHAPTER 3	Is It Legal in Your State?	6
CHAPTER 4	Telling Your Family	9
<i>Part II</i>	<i>Matching (The Family)</i>	
CHAPTER 5	What are you looking for?	12
CHAPTER 6	The Agency Arrangement	15
CHAPTER 7	The Independent Arrangement	19
CHAPTER 8	Surrogate Testing & Procedures	26
CHAPTER 9	The R.E.	31
CHAPTER 10	The MMPI	32
<i>Part III</i>	<i>Contracts</i>	
CHAPTER 11	The Attorney	34
CHAPTER 12	Compensation & Escrow	39
CHAPTER 13	Health Insurance	42
CHAPTER 14	The SAHM vs. The Working Surrogate	44
<i>Part IV</i>	<i>Cycling and Transfer</i>	
CHAPTER 15	Fresh vs. Frozen Transfer	47
CHAPTER 16	Questions to Consider	49
CHAPTER 17	Sample Protocols	51
CHAPTER 18	The Superstitions	52
CHAPTER 19	Before & After Transfer	53
CHAPTER 20	Canceled Cycle	54
CHAPTER 21	Bed rest & Travel after the Transfer	55
CHAPTER 22	The Two Week Wait (2ww)	57
CHAPTER 23	The Beta	59
<i>Part V</i>	<i>Miscarriage & Failed Transfers</i>	
CHAPTER 24	Failed Transfer	61

CHAPTER 25	Miscarriage, Blighted Ovum & Chemical Pregnancy	62
<i>Part VI</i>	<i>The Pregnancy</i>	
CHAPTER 26	How Many More Shots?	64
CHAPTER 27	But they said the chances were SLIM	65
CHAPTER 28	Invasive Procedures	66
CHAPTER 29	The First Trimester	69
CHAPTER 30	The Second Trimester	70
CHAPTER 31	The Third Trimester	71
<i>Part VII</i>	<i>The Birth</i>	
CHAPTER 32	The Pre-Birth Order	73
CHAPTER 33	Contacting the Hospital in Advance	74
CHAPTER 34	Delivery out of State	75
CHAPTER 35	In the Delivery Room	77
<i>Part VIII</i>	<i>Postpartum Issues & Must-haves</i>	
CHAPTER 36	Postpartum Must-haves	80
CHAPTER 37	Contact After the Birth	82
<i>RESOURCES</i>		
	*Online Resources	84
	*Other Surrogacy Books	85
	*Commonly Used Acronyms	86
	*Attorney Directory	89

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank GOD first for the inspiration and creativity that went into the creation of this book and those to come. I'm thankful for life lessons taught along the way and knowing that "good things come to those who wait."

I'm grateful to my husband, Korrey, for sticking with me through everything. I'm very thankful that he stands beside me & not behind or in front of me, bringing much encouragement into my life. I'm thankful for my amazing parents, Shelia & Waldo Provo, for being there for the late calls, long talks, and wisdom speeches. I am more than beyond grateful for the union GOD blessed and their continuous support of my many loves in life. I'm grateful to my 5 siblings for always supporting and encouraging my gifts. To my best friend, Junior, for always being there physically & emotionally when I need you, never hesitating to come to my rescue when I needed you. To my host of aunts and uncles, thank you for taking part in my raising and baby-sitting when needed.

A special thanks to my mother-in-law, Pauline Johnson for always listening, always being by my side no matter what & for giving birth to the most amazing man!

One person that I can not thank enough would be Anita for assisting with editing & providing input. Thanks to Anita for being my sister from another mother and always being there! We have a road ahead of us paved with many dreams & lots of love! Let's keep moving!

Thanks to all my friends who have encouraged my creativity by always going above and beyond the call of friendship. Thanks to Chris D. for always listening even when you had no idea what I was talking about. Special thanks to Raine H. & Candace J. for taking late night calls and giving advice beyond your years. Thank you Sonya L. & Sharona E. for the long road of friendship you have extended and for having mobile-to-mobile! I would also like to especially thank Vicki Dowdell-Smith for inspiring me more than she will EVER know. Taking the time to guide me when no one else would & offering herself as a mentor & friend.

Last but not least, thank you to my first surro-family. Thank you for allowing my family into your lives and entrusting me to care for Miss J during the pregnancy. Sending lots of love to you and your family for the support and love you've shown me and my family. Finally to all those who I failed to name—charge it to my head and not my heart...I LOVE YOU TOO!

PART I

The Decision

1

What is Gestational Surrogacy?

Growing up, I always had family. My mother conceived all six of the children in my large family with no problems and gave birth to all of us with no complications. I never imagined that my mother's easy pregnancies and birth made her different—more fortunate than other women who decided to have children. It didn't cross my mind that family was a concept that a couple could dream of and not have. This past year, at age 25, I learned that 1 in 44 people are deemed infertile. An infertility diagnosis for a couple just means that the couple has been unable to conceive after trying for more than a year. People have various reasons for their diagnosis, but my purpose is not to address the reasons for infertility. What I do want to address is one of the many possible solutions people turn to after a failed attempt to expand their families on their own.

The first step to deciding whether to involve yourself and your family in making the difficult and tedious decision to be a surrogate is to determine what type of surrogate you want to be. Depending on who you are, your beliefs, and within the boundaries of your comfort zone, you could decide to be a carrier for a couple as a Gestational Surrogate (GS) or as a Traditional Surrogate (TS). A Gestational Surrogate is a woman who carries and has no biological relationship to the child(ren) she is carrying. PERIOD. The person/couple that she is carrying for could either be using their own eggs/sperm and/or donor eggs/sperm to make the embryos. A Traditional Surrogate is, by contrast, both the egg donor and the carrier for the couple.

Much is involved in the process of both becoming and serving as a Gestational Surrogate, and in order to educate other women with the knowledge I have gained through research and personal experience, I want to go into as much process detail as possible in the course of this book. I am preparing to enter into my second surrogacy journey, and this book is my own compiled response to all of the questions I asked the first time around. This is the book I wish I had had as a reference when I first started—the

book that would have made me feel a little more at ease about what was to come.

As you go through the ups and downs of being a surrogate, you will have many questions that you will want the answer to. I want to address some of those fears and hopefully put your mind at ease about various things that you may not have thought to address. For instance, have you considered what your feelings would be after giving birth to the child(ren)? Do you think that you would be able to emotionally detach yourself from wanting the child as your own? Some may comment at this point that the child is not theirs, so that is not an issue. Although the initial statement is true, mentally you have to prepare yourself for what is to come. This is definitely something to think about. You have to be more open-minded in your view of the process and what is to come. Attempt to cover all the bases. The stupid question is the one that you do not think to address. Ask them all! Ask your spouse/partner all the questions you can think of! Ensure that this is a decision you and your family have thoroughly thought about.

You cannot go into an emotionally charged process such as surrogacy blindly. You could potentially affect yourself, your family, and the couple you want to help—financially and emotionally if you do not take the time out and ask all the right questions and do as much research as possible. To be frank, surrogacy is not cheap. I'm sure that couples going through this process want you to respect that. They are investing a lot of money into making their hopes and dreams of expanding their family. Yes, most surrogates are compensated, but that does not mean that the ONLY thing you have to do is get pregnant and carry the child. There is MUCH more involved in the surrogacy process than the pregnancy and the birth. There is so much more involved before you even make it to that point.

The purpose of writing this book is to make light of a lot of issues that COULD potentially arise and the things that need to be addressed not only with your family and the intended couple, but personally.

Do you have health issues that you need to address? First and foremost, DISCLOSE everything. Leave nothing to the imagination. Your medical history and current state of health is very important. All parties need to be upfront and honest about EVERYTHING. Leaving anything out could later be construed as