

U.S. Surrogacy Process Checklist

For Intended Parents – A Step-by-Step Guide by Surrogacy4All

1. Initial Consultation

Schedule a consultation with a surrogacy agency or fertility clinic to discuss your goals, preferences, and budget. This meeting helps you understand the surrogacy process, legalities, and estimated costs.

2. Screening and Documentation

Complete required background checks, medical and psychological evaluations, and provide identification and medical records. These screenings ensure that all parties are physically and emotionally ready for the journey.

3. Match with a Surrogate

Based on your preferences, the agency will present profiles of potential surrogates. Once a match is made, a video meeting or in-person introduction will help establish comfort and trust between both parties.

4. Legal Agreement

Work with experienced surrogacy attorneys to draft and sign a legal contract outlining responsibilities, rights, compensation, and medical decision-making. Both intended parents and surrogate must have separate legal representation.

5. Medical Process and IVF

After legal clearance, the fertility clinic begins the medical phase. The surrogate starts a treatment cycle, and embryos created through IVF (using the intended parents' or donors' eggs and sperm) are transferred to the surrogate's uterus.

6. Pregnancy Monitoring

Once pregnancy is confirmed, the surrogate receives regular prenatal care. The agency and clinic keep intended parents updated on progress through reports, appointments, and virtual or in-person visits.

7. Preparing for Birth

Before the due date, legal pre-birth orders are obtained (where applicable) to ensure the intended parents' names appear on the birth certificate. A birth plan is finalized between the surrogate and parents.

8. Delivery and Post-Birth Process

The intended parents are present (if possible) at delivery. After birth, the baby is handed over, and necessary hospital discharge and legal documentation are completed.

9. Post-Delivery Support

The surrogate receives emotional and physical recovery support. Intended parents complete any remaining legal filings, such as parental rights confirmation or citizenship paperwork for international cases.

10. Celebrate and Stay Connected

The surrogacy journey often creates lasting bonds. Many intended parents choose to maintain contact with their surrogate and share updates, honoring the special connection formed during this life-changing experience.