hatch
Egg Donation & Surrogacy

Your guide to Surrogacy

What to expect when you're expecting as a gestational carrier.

Welcome to The Surrogacy Program at Hatch!

Dear Surrogate,

Thank you for considering our program for your surrogacy journey.

As a surrogate with Hatch, you'll make miracles possible. We strive to match you with Intended Parents you're compatible with so that your unique journey is a positive experience. We know that surrogacy is not a "one-size-fits-all" experience, and look forward to providing you with compassionate support during your personalized journey.

Our surrogacy agency is among the oldest and most respected of its kind since our founding in 1991. We pride ourselves on the level of service we provide for you, and the special relationships we maintain with our wonderful Surrogates and Intended Parents. Our attentive and experienced staff will provide support throughout the matching process, IVF cycle, pregnancy, and birth to ensure your journey is as positive as possible.

As a surrogate at Hatch, you'll be rewarded for your selfless gift with an excellent benefits package. This includes comfort gifts during the pregnancy, a $1,000 gift to your children, and a $500 vacation gift after the birth. Such an extraordinary gift deserves the highest compensation, and first-time surrogate compensation packages start at $52,000 with higher compensation for candidates residing in California, and previous surrogate experience.

We can't wait to welcome you to our surrogate family. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us at **818-506-9300** or **shoshannah@hatch.us.**

Warm regards,
The Hatch Team

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How to become a Hatch Surrogate

At Hatch's surrogacy program, we cherish our surrogates for the selfless women that they are. Starting this process takes careful consideration and research, and there are so many questions that arise.

You'll undergo a screening process broken up into manageable steps so this part of your journey isn't a stressor in your life. We are respectful and appreciative of the time you spend being screened.

The average screening time is one to two months. However, this depends on how quickly your past medical care providers can provide your medical records, in addition to your responsiveness and scheduling availability. Your surrogate coordinator will be available every step of the way to answer questions and ensure that you feel supported.

Here is a step-by-step breakdown of our surrogate screening process.

Step 1: Complete the Hatch surrogate application

First, you must apply to be a surrogate by filling out our program's application. After receiving this form, a surrogacy specialist from the Hatch team will contact you by one of the communication methods you've provided for an educational call with you about our program.

Step 2: Initial screening call

Your Surrogate Match Coordinator, an experienced surrogate herself, will coordinate an initial screening call. The intention of this meeting is to get to know you, address your questions, and help you determine if our program is the right fit for your needs.

Step 3: Medical questionnaire and records collection

You'll receive a brief questionnaire that covers your medical history. Next, we'll work with you to obtain copies of your medical records from your previous OB offices, delivery hospitals, and IVF clinics (if applicable). Once your records come in, they'll be reviewed by an IVF doctor for medical pre-approval to ensure you're a good medical candidate for surrogacy.

Step 4: Social screening

You and your Surrogate Match Coordinator will meet over a face-to-face video conference. The focus of this meeting will be to get to know you and your family, as well as gather information to help us to find a wonderful intended parent match for you.

Step 5: Medical screening

You and your Surrogate Match Coordinator will explain the medical aspects of the surrogacy process. This includes (but is not limited to) the IVF screening, cycle, and transfer.

Step 6: Partner interview

If applicable, your Surrogate Match Coordinator will talk to your spouse/committed partner to ensure they are supportive of your surrogacy and answer any questions they may have. Surrogacy is a family process, and it's important to ensure that your partner is on-board and feels supported in this journey.

Step 7: Welcome paperwork packet

Once your medical records have all come in, you'll complete a welcome packet of paperwork. This provides important information about being a surrogate, and also includes pertinent details we will need. These may include forms to authorize routine background checks for you and your partner (if applicable), copies of your driver's license, and paystubs to calculate future lost wages.

Step 8: Financial compensation planning

You'll meet with your Financial Coordinator to cover your compensation package and ensure all your financial questions are answered. You're giving the most priceless gift, and we work hard to provide you with comprehensive packages that take care of you and your family.

Step 9: Routine background check

We'll submit the request to run the routine background checks for you and your spouse/partner (if applicable) after your medical records have been pre-approved by the Medical Director. This is to protect both you, the intended parents and future baby for a successful surrogacy journey.

Step 10: Psychological screening

You and your partner (if applicable) will meet with a therapist or psychologist to assess your preparedness to become a surrogate. The therapist or psychologist will administer an MMPI-2 or PAI test to assess your personality and motivational fit, as well as screen for major psychological concerns.

Once finished, your interview and test results will be combined into a psychological report clearing you to proceed as a surrogate with our program.

Step 11: Matching with intended parents

Once you've passed the screening as detailed above, we're ready to start finding your perfect match.

We will take into consideration your wants, needs, personality, medical history, and state laws to connect you with a wonderful intended parent match. You will receive a "Dear Surrogate" letter written by the intended parent(s) and pictures. If you love what you read, our Intended Parent Coordinator will facilitate the first meeting via video conference to solidify the match.

Your compensation

Surrogates give the most precious gift to their Intended Parent matches. In return, we believe that they deserve the best support both emotionally and financially.

No two surrogates are alike, and Hatch's compensation packages are designed to be all-encompassing of your needs. Let's cover what you can expect as compensation for your time as a surrogate, and other expenses and benefits that may arise.

Highly qualified Surrogate Candidates, please inquire about our fee matching

Some of our surrogate benefits include...

$7,500
bonus for a twin pregnancy

$2,500
C-section fee

$1,000
Maternity clothing allowance

$1,500
IVF transfer fee (per transfer)

$500,000
Life insurance policy

$2,000+
Lost wages for you or your partner

$1,000
Education gift for your children

$500
Post-delivery Vacation gift

Escalating fees for repeat surrogates

Comfort gifts including gift cards, pregnancy pillows, in-home dinners and more

Housekeeping, childcare, and monthly allowances

Delivery gifts to celebrate the birth

California surrogate compensation packages

Loving Intended Parents from California and all over the world seek out California Surrogates. Due to the reduced travel costs, surrogates residing in california can receive a higher fee.

Here's what you'll be paid as a surrogate within California:

- 1st time surrogate: $57,000
- 2nd time surrogate: $62,000
- 3rd time surrogate: $67,000
- 4th time surrogate: $72,000

Out-of-state surrogate compensation packages

We welcome Surrogates from all states with surrogacy-friendly laws and offer top compensation with travel expenses covered for the approximate 2 trips to California for the IVF medical screening and IVF transfer.

- 1st time surrogate: $52,000
- 2nd time surrogate: $57,000
- 3rd time surrogate: $62,000
- 4th time surrogate: $67,000

After you're matched

Once you're officially matched with your intended parent(s) there will be some next steps to think about. Here is a quick outline of what to expect:

Step 1: Exchange Contact Information

Your Intended Parent Coordinator will assist with exchanging contact information between you and your intended parent match so that you can begin enjoying direct communication.

Step 2: Cycle Check-ins

Your Intended Parent Coordinator will need to know when you're expecting your next menstrual cycle. You'll be notifying her, as well on the first day of your cycle (the day your period starts). This timing is important for scheduling your medical screening.

Step 3: Coordinating Your Travel

Our Financial Coordinator will work with you to coordinate your travel to your medical screening if flight/hotel is needed and may connect you with a travel agent as well. She will also help to facilitate reimbursements you may need for this appointment.

Step 4: In-Person Medical Screening

You'll go to the Intended Parent's IVF doctor and they will conduct a medical screening to ensure you are a good medical candidate for surrogacy. The IVF doctor will have already medically pre-approved you as a candidate based on your medical records.

At the in-person screening, the doctor will:

- Get your verbal medical history & confirm you're in good overall health
- Run blood tests to check that you have no contagious diseases that could be transmitted in pregnancy
- Run blood tests to check that you have immunity to certain diseases from prior vaccinations
- Run blood tests to check your hormone levels
- Run a routine drug test
- Perform a vaginal ultrasound to check your uterine lining
- Your partner may also need to complete a blood test and/or urine test screening for transmittable diseases and/or drugs

The results from your lab work take 10-12 business days and then you are medically cleared as a surrogate.

Step 5: Contracts

When it's time to prepare your legal contract with the intended parents, you'll be provided with attorney options to select from.

Your intended parent(s) will be paying your attorney's fees for the contract process, so you don't need to worry about paying for this.

There are a few steps to the contract process:

1. The attorney representing your intended parents will create the first draft of the contract and review it with your intended parents for their approval
2. Once the intended parents have approved the contract draft, it'll be sent to your attorney.
3. You'll schedule a contract review with your attorney. Prior to your appointment, you'll want to read through the contract and note any questions or changes you have.
4. After you've reviewed your contract, your attorney will send any revisions to your intended parents' attorney.
5. Once both you and the intended parents have notified your respective attorneys that you agree on the final draft of the contract, you'll sign and notarize the contract. You'll each email signed and notarized copies of the contract to your respective attorneys, and follow attorney instructions on how to mail the signed and notarized original contracts to them.
6. Once the attorneys have received the signed and notarized original contracts, they'll issue legal clearance for your case.

Please note: *Before you can start an IVF cycle to get pregnant, we must first have medical clearance from the IVF doctor, legal clearance from the attorneys, and financial clearance that the intended parent(s) have deposited the full funds into the surrogacy escrow account.*

Your IVF cycle

Once the above steps are complete, you're ready to start an IVF cycle. You will have a clinical coordinator coordinating your cycle at the IVF clinic.

Please be sure to keep us copied in on that communication so we can continue to support you every step of the way.

Here are the next steps to expect in your surrogacy journey:

Pre-cycle preparation

At the beginning of your IVF cycle, you'll receive a shipment containing your IVF calendar and medications. This IVF calendar will cover everything you need to know about the following:

- Medication instructions
- When to schedule cycle monitoring appointments
- Your tentative embryo transfer date

When you receive your shipment of IVF medications, make sure you have everything you need. Check the medications you've received with the packing slip and your IVF calendar.

If you're unsure or have questions, please let your clinical coordinator at your IVF clinic and your coordinator at Hatch know as soon as possible. You'll also continue to check your medication supply weekly to ensure that you always have enough medication and unopened backups of medication that will be continued after the embryo transfer takes place.

With IVF, a lot of shots are generally required , primarily progesterone and estrogen.With a surrogate pregnancy, these hormones are necessary for a successful pregnancy, and also critical to sustain the pregnancy until a certain point in time when the doctors will instruct you to start weaning off of the medications. **Missing any medications can affect the outcome of the cycle and pregnancy.**

IVF cycle monitoring

Every time you go to the IVF doctor and/or the monitoring clinic (if your IVF clinic is very far from your home) you will likely have a vaginal ultrasound and they will draw your blood to test your hormone levels. There are typically 3-5 visits in total.

The embryo transfer

When your body and the embryo are ready for the embryo transfer, it's a very simple procedure without anesthesia. The embryos are microscopic, and the transfer uses a speculum and a guided vaginal ultrasound to guide the catheter to implant the embryos.

After the procedure, you'll need to rest at the doctor's office for about 20 minutes. When you leave, you'll be advised to continue bedrest at home or at a nearby hotel, depending on how far away you reside.

The bedrest following the embryo transfer is one to three days, depending on the doctor's protocol. Your partner is welcome at the transfer. After the transfer, it's important to keep your activities quiet and light to help implantation.

Pregnancy blood test

10-14 days later a blood test is done to check for pregnancy. This can be done at a monitoring clinic or lab closer to your home if the IVF office is far from you. If you wish, you can be the first one to share the pregnancy news with the intended parents!

Your pregnancy

First, congratulations are in order! After your blood test confirms pregnancy, here's what to expect:

Your first trimester: your IVF clinic

Your pregnancy will be monitored through ultrasounds and blood tests by the IVF doctor either at your intended parents' IVF office, or through a monitoring clinic closer to your home until about 10 weeks of pregnancy.

Here's what you can expect during your first trimester of the pregnancy:

- At four to six weeks of pregnancy, you'll have an ultrasound to check for a gestational sac in the uterus.
- At six to eight weeks, you'll have one or two ultrasounds to check for fetal heartbeat.
- At 10 to 11 weeks of pregnancy, you'll have one to two more visits before graduating from IVF care to OB care.
- At around 10 to 11 weeks of pregnancy, they'll provide instructions for gradually tapering off the IVF medications. The clinical coordinator responsible for your care at the IVF clinic will inform you how your doctor is adjusting your medications after each appointment.

Your second and third trimester: your OB provider

Once your pregnancy has been confirmed by fetal heartbeat ultrasound, your surrogate coordinator will help you transition to OB care. We'll check what OB/hospital options are in-network with the surrogacy insurance plan, and you and your intended parent(s) will decide on the best option for this as a team.

Your IVF doctor will inform you of the time frame for setting up your first OB appointment. Before your first OB appointment, your Surrogate Match Coordinator will make sure your OB has all of the relevant information from your IVF cycle and pregnancy thus far, a copy of your insurance card, and a copy of the medical records from the IVF clinic.

Contacting your intended parents and surrogate coordinator

Throughout the pregnancy, you'll notify us and your recipient parents of the dates and times for all surrogacy-related medical appointments and provide updates so we can make sure you're supported throughout the pregnancy. You can share news about your appointments by phone, text or email.

Advance notice of appointments will also give the intended parents the option to be on the phone with you or attend appointments when possible to share the pregnancy experience with you, support you, and bond with their baby.

Screening tests during your second trimester

Most intended parents wish to do the non-invasive pregnancy screening tests, such as the Nuchal Translucency ultrasound, at around 12 weeks, state first and second trimester blood tests, and/or the NIPT blood test. You can coordinate this through your OB or specialist they refer, or we can provide a referral within L.A. if you're able to travel for these tests.

Some intended parents opt to do invasive testing, such as an amniocentesis or Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS), if there are concerns resulting from the non-invasive testing. If your intended parents choose to pursue this, you'll be compensated for the inconvenience associated with these tests.

Legal processes involved with surrogacy

At around 16 weeks of pregnancy, the legal parentage process will be initiated with the same attorneys who assisted with the initial contract. Depending on the state laws where you reside, both you and your spouse (if applicable) will sign documents to confirm that the intended parents are the legal parents of their baby in advance of the birth.

In some states, there are steps to complete post-birth. Because of this, it's possible that you'll attend a court date to solidify legal parentage.

Ultrasounds and monitoring before birth

Around 20 weeks of pregnancy, you'll have a 20-week fetal anatomy ultrasound and possibly a fetal echocardiogram, which is the ultrasound of the baby's heart. In many cases, the intended parents like to come out for this appointment. At this appointment, you can also tour the delivery hospital together. We can assist with finding a point of contact at your delivery hospital to coordinate this.

Most intended parents will plan to be in town two weeks before the due date (barring any indicators of an earlier birth) so that they don't miss this special experience. It's typical for the intended parents to be present for the birth, as long as the surrogate is comfortable with this.

If you have a scheduled C-section or induction, please make sure to let both your intended parents and us know in advance.

When labor begins, please let your OB, your intended parents, and us know right away. Even if your water breaks in the middle of the night, please let us know by calling us and the intended parents. You're never bothering anyone, and we're all here to support you!

After giving birth

After giving birth, please stay in touch with us and your intended parents in case of any postpartum medical appointments. We'd all love to know how you're recovering from birth and provide support (and gratitude) whenever we can.

Let's cover a few frequently asked questions you may have following your delivery:

Pumping is always optional

Please review your contract for how this works for your specific case. If you are pumping to provide milk for your intended parents, please let your Financial Coordinator know so you can be compensated for this per your contract. You will coordinate the delivery and shipment of milk directly with the intended parent(s) and we will facilitate the payment of the pumping fees and breast pump/pumping supply reimbursement.

Medical history and records

We will help with requesting a clearance letter from your OB, pregnancy and delivery records after you have been medically cleared by your OB and no longer require any postpartum medical care (typically within 1-3 months after giving birth).

Medical bills and expenses

You will forward all medical bills you receive for the surrogacy to our Financial Coordinator and she will relay these to the intended parents for payment.

Contact with your recipient parents

Contact tends to be less frequent post birth because your intended parents are adjusting to having a newborn to care for. Most parents will send at a minimum pictures and milestone updates. Many will also continue to remain in touch and sustain special friendships with their Surrogate Angels. It helps to be patient, especially in those early weeks following the birth, if you're not hearing from the parents as much. You can always reach out to us and we're happy to check in.

If you need anything throughout your journey, please let our team know- we want to make this an incredible experience for you. There are no silly questions!

Next steps for your surrogacy journey

As a surrogate, you'll make a miracle possible for intended parents who will value and truly appreciate your contribution. We cherish your willingness to be a part of this amazing journey.

Your team will guide you every step of the way throughout your surrogacy experience, and we'll make sure your journey is an enjoyable, exciting time of your life.

If you haven't yet applied, visit www.hatch.us/surrogate-application and fill out your application. We look forward to welcoming you to our Surrogate Family!