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Together, We Make Dreams Come True!

Surrogate Steps is a full-service licensed surrogacy agency with a focus on building your family using a team-based approach. We believe in good communication and work closely with you, physicians, pharmacists, social workers, investigators, psychologists, hospital staff, and other attorneys to provide you with the best possible surrogacy experience. Highlighted below are some of the surrogacy steps that we look forward to taking together with you.

1. Screening Process

- **Pre-Screened Surrogates:** Our surrogates are pre-screened which ensures that the surrogates have met high requirements set by our agency relating to age of surrogate, number of prior children, medical history (which includes a review of the surrogate's medical records), financial requirements, and obtained medical clearance from the surrogate's obstetrician and gynecologist to become a surrogate.
- **Surrogacy Pregnancy Insurance Review:** As part of the pre-screening process, we also review the surrogate's insurance policy so that the surrogate will have adequate insurance to cover the surrogacy pregnancy.
- **Review of Surrogate Profile:** We will provide you with the surrogate's profile once the surrogate has completed her pre-screened process. We take great care in providing you with surrogate profiles that best match your family needs.

2. Meet the Surrogate

- **Medical Records Review by Clinic:** After you select a surrogate profile, we provide the surrogate's medical records to your fertility clinic and physicians for review. Once we receive initial approval from your clinic to proceed we facilitate a match meeting.
- **Meet the Surrogate:** We will schedule a conference (also referred to as 'match meeting') with you and the surrogate to build a relationship and make sure that everyone has the same values and that everyone would like to proceed with the match. These meetings, depending

on location of the intended parents in relation to the surrogate, are sometimes done in person, by video conference or by phone conference.

3. Clinic Medical Screening

- **Medical Screening:** The surrogate and her intimate partner will undergo medical testing at your fertility clinic so that the clinic can determine if the surrogate is an appropriate candidate for surrogacy. The screening includes a uterine evaluation and blood tests.
- **Medical Screening Expenses:** Prior to the medical screening our agency will collect the estimated costs to cover the travel expenses as well as other screening expenses for the surrogate. The expenses will be estimated prior to the match meeting. These funds will be placed in the agency's client trust account, and a full accounting with receipts will be provided to you. All expenses will be pre-approved by you prior to sustaining such expense.

4. Final Agency Screening

- **Psychological Evaluation:** Everyone will need to undergo a psychological evaluation. Sometimes this is done at the fertility clinic, and sometimes it is coordinated by our agency. The evaluation is usually conducted by a licensed social worker and ensures that everyone has the emotional and physical support for the surrogacy journey.
- **Home Study:** The surrogate will undergo a home study evaluation coordinated by our agency and conducted by a licensed social worker. This ensures that the surrogate's residence is a safe environment for your baby and to maintain a pregnancy.
- **Criminal Background Check:** Everyone will sign a consent form which will allow us to obtain your criminal backgrounds.

5. Legal Contracts

- **Legal Evaluation:** All surrogacy arrangements require legal planning. One of the greatest benefits with our agency is that our director is an attorney specializing in reproductive law. Prior to providing you with a surrogate profile we will conduct a legal evaluation to ensure that the surrogate resides in a state with favorable laws that accommodate your family needs.
- **Attorney Representation:** Our director will draft your gestational carrier agreement and assist you with obtaining an attorney to represent you and a separate independent attorney to represent the surrogate in the review of the gestational carrier agreement.

6. Escrow Account

- **Compensation & Expense Escrow:** Before the initial embryo transfer we will assist you to establish an escrow account for the benefit of the surrogate which will include the surrogate's base compensation and estimated surrogacy journey expenses.

7. Embryo Transfer

- **Embryo Transfer Timing:** Once the surrogate is medically cleared, all screening is completed and the legal agreements are executed, the clinic will schedule the embryo transfer date.
- **Travel:** The surrogate may need to travel for the embryo transfer with a companion if the clinic is not in close proximity to the surrogate's residence. If such travel is required, then the surrogate will need to rest in a hotel approximately 24-48 hours after the embryo transfer prior to traveling back home. We will coordinate all travel arrangements, including flights, car rentals, and we will reimburse the surrogate per the surrogate's compensation package from your funds in the client trust account.

8. Pregnancy

- **Pregnancy Test:** Starting approximately 10 days after the embryo transfer, the surrogate will undergo blood tests to confirm a pregnancy. After pregnancy is confirmed and approximately 4 weeks after the embryo transfer, it will be time for the baby's first ultrasound and confirmation of the baby's heartbeat.

9. Birth & Parentage Order

- **Recognizing the Intended Parents as the Legal Parents:** Once the surrogate commences the second trimester of pregnancy, you will work with your attorney to commence and ensure your paternity rights. This will ensure that you are recognized as legal parents of your child and that you are able to make all medical and legal decisions on behalf of your child commencing at birth.

10. Welcome Baby!

- **Delivery:** The most amazing moment that you have been waiting for is finally here with the arrival of your baby. We work together with the hospital at which your baby will be delivered to provide you with a separate room to spend time with your baby. Once the baby is ready to be discharged from the hospital, you will take your baby to his or her new home!