

Can I be a

SURROGATE MOTHER?



The
**10 Most Commonly
Asked Questions**
Potential Gestational
Surrogates Have But Are
Afraid to Ask.
Answered.

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About the Author



Rayven Perkins is the author/webmaster of <http://www.Information-on-Surrogacy.com> a website dedicated to helping intended parents and surrogate mothers navigate the unique, emotional, and often confusing world of surrogacy.

She is the author of "Confessions of a Surrogate Mother" as well as "Fertility Symbols, a Coloring Book for Adults" and is herself a four-time surrogate mother, having given birth to five surrogate babies, including a set of twins. She is right now in the midst of her final journey as a surrogate mother.

Rayven is the single mother of two teens currently living in Florida. Her favorite thing in the world is travel; her family spent 6 years traveling full-time in their RV. And though her children have talked her into settling down to be "normal" while they are in high school, she is looking forward to globetrotting in a few years, once her surrogacy days are behind her.

Currently, she is planning a trip to Antarctica to celebrate her 40th birthday.

Check out Rayven's books on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/Rayven-Perkins/e/B00D5S2A2K>

Can I Be a Surrogate Mother? The 10 Most Commonly Asked Questions Potential Gestational Surrogates Have But Are Afraid to Ask. Answered.

So you want to be a surrogate mother, but you're not sure you qualify. Let's find out.

First, there are two types of surrogacy – traditional surrogacy and gestational surrogacy.

Traditional surrogates use their own eggs, and get pregnant via artificial insemination. There are generally no medications to take, and the pregnancy proceeds just like a normal pregnancy. At birth, she signs her rights away to the intended parents. This guide is not for traditional surrogates. To learn more about traditional surrogacy, please click [here](#).

Gestational surrogates are just the oven. They do not supply genetic material to the baby, and get pregnant via IVF (in vitro fertilization) from an embryo created in a petri dish from sperm from the intended father, and an egg from either the intended mother or an egg donor. There are multiple steps to IVF, and months of medications, including daily injections. This guide is for those considering gestational surrogacy.

My tubes are tied. Can I be a surrogate?

Believe it or not, clinics, agencies and intended parents actually prefer to work with a gestational surrogate mother who has had her tubes tied. Why?

First, there is no chance that she will accidentally get pregnant while working with intended parents as a surrogate mother.

And second, she's made it clear that she is done having children of her own, which makes it less likely that she will have feelings of longing after the baby is born.

Because a gestational surrogate mother's eggs are not used, it is perfectly fine if she has had a tubal ligation.

I've never had kids or even been pregnant before. Can I be a surrogate?

If you've never given birth, you do not qualify to become a surrogate mother. Period.

I get it. You may have a very giving heart, and just want to be able to give back to the world, but trust me, surrogacy is not an option for you at this time. There are just way too many unknowns in this situation.

If you've never given birth, you really don't know how you will react when that baby is born. You may THINK you do; you may be positive that you do not want children, or do not want children right now, and you may be absolutely clear in your mind that the baby you are carrying is not your biological child, but you have never experienced the hormones and emotions that come with delivering a child. You may be setting yourself up for a world of hurt.

And the truth is, a woman who has not given birth before is not really certain she can. How devastating it would be for a couple, who have saved for years to be able to afford surrogacy, to have their dreams taken away because the woman who agreed to carry for them is also infertile.

Plus, anything can happen in surrogacy. Sometimes, due to complications, a woman loses her ability to have any more children of her own. For a surrogate mother who is done having her own children, this is sad. For a woman who hasn't even started her family, this is devastating.

I've had multiple c-sections. Can I be a surrogate?

Going through a VBAC (a vaginal birth after cesarean) is not usually an option for surrogate mothers. Intended parents want the least complicated birth possible for their child, and VBACs can be complicated.

Having 2-3 c-sections prior to becoming a surrogate is fine, as long as you understand that your surrogate pregnancy will also be a c-section delivery. If your

doctor clears you for another pregnancy, having had multiple c-sections will not disqualify you.

I've had pregnancy complications or miscarriages. Can I be a surrogate?

Most pregnancy complications are handled on a case by case basis. Conditions such as preeclampsia are usually disqualifications, but cases of premature birth, miscarriage, and even gestational diabetes can sometimes be worked through, as long as there is not a repetitive history of these conditions, and the candidate is otherwise suited.

I've had an STD. Can I be a surrogate?

Potential surrogates who have had STD's such as Gonorrhea or Chlamydia which have been treated and irradiated are not disqualified. Herpes and HPV are not automatic disqualifications, though they are not ideal. STD's such as Hepatitis C & HIV are automatic disqualifications.

Some clinics automatically disqualify any surrogate with a history of STD's.

I'm a teenager or I'm over 40. Can I be a surrogate?

Surrogate mothers must be at least 21 years old to legally be entered into contracts in most states. If you're a teen, wait a couple more years.

Women older than 40 are not necessarily disqualified, depending on the clinic. Most clinics do want surrogates between 21 and 40, but if a woman over 40 has recently given birth (within 2-3 years) they sometimes will extend the boundaries.

Some clinics will even accept surrogates as old as 45.

I've had an abortion or given a child up for adoption. Can I be a surrogate?

In order to qualify as a surrogate mother, a woman must have given birth to at least one child, and be raising at least one child of her own. If you have had an abortion in the past, and then went on to start your own family, with healthy pregnancies, this will not affect your ability to become a surrogate.

If you have given a child up for adoption in the past, and then went on to start your own family, with healthy pregnancies, this will not affect your ability to become a surrogate.

But, if you've had one or more abortions and have never given birth, you do not qualify to become a surrogate.

If you've given one or more children up for adoption and are not currently raising any of your children, you do not qualify to become a surrogate.

Clinics, agencies, and intended parents desire surrogate mothers from stable home-life situations, who will be returning from the hospital after giving birth to their own family, and their own children, not feeling regret at giving the baby back to his parents.

I've recently given birth or am breastfeeding. Can I be a surrogate?

Each clinic has different regulations on how long a woman must wait between deliveries. Some are as low as 6-weeks. Others are as long as a year. The honest truth is, you'll need to check with the clinic you're working with. The priority is that your OB/GYN has cleared you for another pregnancy.

If you are currently breastfeeding, you'll need to be done before you become a surrogate mother.

I'm overweight. Can I be a surrogate?

Fluffy surrogates are not automatically disqualified. Some clinics don't even pay attention to BMI; others will ask a potential surrogate mother to lose a little weight before the start of their journey. Generally, BMI's under 32 are accepted.

I'm on mood-altering medication or anti-depressants. Can I be a surrogate?

Most women who are regularly taking anti-depressants do not qualify for surrogacy. A woman must be in a stable situation, both physically and emotionally, to undergo a surrogate journey. Additionally, most mood-altering medications can pass through the placenta in a pregnant woman and directly affect the baby. Clinic regulations vary, but most who accept women who have previously been on anti-depressants want her to have been off those medications for at least 6 months – 2 years.

Keep in mind that each clinic and agency has different rules and regulations regarding all these issues. Your mileage may vary. But, if you are rejected from one agency or clinic because of a minor issue, you may be approved with another. Keep trying, and best wishes on your journey.