

ISSUES RELATED TO SURROGACY AND ADOPTION

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	<u>Surrogacy</u>	<u>Adoption</u>
Selection of child (sex, physical characteristics, etc.)	Able to select egg donor and review pictures, prior children, and family history. No sex selection. No guarantee of physical features.	Able to see child and biological mother. Sex selection possible; race and ethnic selection possible. Able to view physical features.
Medical health of child	Able to screen and test egg donor and surrogate. Attempt to control behavior of surrogate during pregnancy. Able to test fetus prior to birth. No guarantee of health of child. Assume liability if child has medical problems or birth defects.	Child is tested and screened. Child may have certain medical problems (known or unknown, such as TB, etc.). Major/known health problems usually detected.
Timing of receipt of child	Relationship with surrogate prior to birth. Immediate possession of child at birth.	Able to visit child prior to adoption. Possession may be immediate or it may take 6 months to 3 years.
Prior tests and examinations	Medical tests for everyone. Psychological clearance for everyone. Private attorneys for everyone.	Medical clearance. Psychological screening for adoptive parent. Social studies. Insurance and criminal background check. Financial and employment verification.
Costs	Very expensive due to medical costs, legal costs, medical insurance, egg donor costs, surrogate costs, and possible travel expenses.	Costs vary depending on type of adoption. Costs may include local agency, orphanage, birth mother expenses, travel costs, and legal fees.
Legal issues	Written agreements, consents, waivers, and releases are needed. For mothers-to-be, you can proceed in Texas. For fathers-to-be, you should proceed out of state, due to Texas law on sperm donors. Biological parent may change mind.	Written documents are needed, but more protections apply to adoptive parents once adoption is final. Attorney ad-litem needed for child and any missing parents.
Biological connection	Related by birth to one of the parents.	Not related by birth. May be related by law to both new parents.
Degree of certainty	Can be very difficult depending on medical and psychological issues.	Can be difficult or easy depending on legal issues.
Rewards	Priceless.	Priceless.