

Surrogacy Arrangements: Frequently Asked Questions

Your health care team is committed to giving you the best care possible during your stay. This pamphlet answers common questions about what to expect during your stay.

How do I (the surrogate birth mother) get ready for delivery?

- We recommend working with the intended parents to make a birth plan. A nurse and/or a doctor will go over the plan and talk with you about any parts that need to be clearer, and answer your questions. The plan may include:
 - › who you want to be in the room during the delivery.
 - › who will cut the baby's umbilical cord.
 - › who will be doing skin-to-skin with the baby.
 - › any other wishes you may have.
- The nurse or doctor will also answer any questions you may have.

What will happen after the baby is born?

- When the baby is born, they will be admitted to the hospital under the surrogate birth mother's last name.
- The baby will get 2 identification (I.D.) bands. The surrogate birth mother will get (1) I.D. band. The baby will get a unique hospital number to identify them while in the hospital. The baby may also get another I.D. band for security reasons.

Are there any forms that I need to sign?

Yes. After the baby is born, the surrogate birth mother **and** the intended parents will need to sign several forms. **These forms cannot be signed until after the baby is born:**

1. *Declaration of Surrogate Birth Mother:* states the surrogate birth mother will not make care decisions for the baby and assigns this responsibility to the intended parents.
2. *Consent of Transfer for the Infant Child by Surrogate Birth Mother:* allows the transfer of the baby from the surrogate birth mother to the intended parents.
3. *Acknowledgement of Transfer of Infant Child:* states that the intended parents are the parents named by the surrogate birth mother and that they will be caring for the baby when the baby goes home.

4. *Discharge of Infant Child to Intended Parents*: discharges the baby from the hospital to the intended parents. The intended parents will need to give copies of their photo I.D.s (showing their current address), and provide the nurse with a current phone number. This form must also also be signed by the nurse.
5. *Declaration of Substitute Decision Maker*: states that 1 of the intended parents agrees to take responsibility for the baby's care decisions.

Who will make decisions for the baby?

- **Until the forms are signed, the surrogate birth mother makes all decisions for the baby.** The surrogate birth mother makes all of their own health care decisions for their prenatal care, labour, and delivery.
- If the surrogate birth mother cannot make decisions (loses capacity), their designated substitute-decision maker will step in to make decisions for them, including decisions for the baby (until the forms are signed).

How will the baby be registered?

- The law requires that the surrogate birth mother be recorded as the baby's mother. We recommend that the surrogate birth mother and the intended parents talk to their lawyers about registering the birth, and about Nova Scotia's Vital Statistics regulations.
- We strongly suggest registering the birth with Vital Statistics in-person instead of at the hospital, since you likely will need to give more information and forms.

What will happen after the forms are signed?

- While in the hospital, the baby will be admitted under the last name of the surrogate birth mother. **We will not change this in the hospital.** Once the baby is transferred to the care of the intended parents:
 - › We will make a new set of I.D. bands for them.
 - › We will then change the baby's next of kin to the intended parents. The intended parents will need to give copies of their photo I.D.s (showing their current address), and provide a current phone number in case the hospital needs to call them.

What are the room options?

- Every effort will be made to have 2 rooms for your hospital stay: 1 for the surrogate birth mother (and her support persons), and 1 for the intended parents and the baby. If you have any questions, please call the hospital that has been chosen for delivery.

Hospital: _____ **Phone:** _____