

Surrogacy Arrangements: Frequently Asked Questions

Congratulations! Staff at _____ are looking forward to working with you to make sure you have a good labour and delivery experience. This handout covers common questions about what to expect during your hospital stay.

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

We recommend that you work with the intended parents to make a birth plan. A nurse and/or doctor will go over the plan with you and talk about any parts of the plan that need to be more clear, as well as answer your questions.

In the plan, you may wish to identify:

- › who you want to be in the room for the delivery
- › who will cut the cord
- › who will be doing skin-to-skin with the baby
- › any other preferences or wishes you may have

We will work with you to make this a positive experience for everyone.

What will happen after the baby is born?

When the baby is born, they will be admitted under the surrogate birth mother's last name.

The baby will get 2 identification (ID) bands and the surrogate birth mother will get 1 ID band. The baby will be given a unique hospital number to identify them while they are in the hospital. The baby may also be given another ID band for security reasons.

Are there any forms that need to be signed?

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.

These forms include:

1. *Declaration of Surrogate Birth Mother*: indicates that 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*: acknowledges that the intended parents are the parents named by the surrogate birth mother and that they will be taking care of 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 provide copies of their photo IDs that show their current address, as well as provide the nurse with a current phone number, and have the form signed by the nurse.
5. *Declaration of Substitute Decision Maker*: this form acknowledges that one of the intended parents agrees to take responsibility for care decisions for the baby.

Who will make decisions for the baby?

Until the forms are completed, the surrogate birth mother is in charge of all decisions for the baby. She is also in charge of her own health care decisions for prenatal, labour, and delivery care.

If the surrogate birth mother cannot make decisions for herself, her designated substitute decision maker will be in charge of all decision making, including decisions for the baby (until the forms are completed).

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 department laws. We strongly suggest registering the birth with Vital Statistics in person instead of at the hospital.

What will happen after the forms are completed?

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.** A new set of ID bands will be made for the intended parents once the baby is transferred to their care. We will then change the name of the baby's next of kin to the intended parents. The intended parents will need to provide copies of their photo IDs that show their current address, as well as provide a current phone number in case the hospital ever needs to contact them.

What are the room options?

Every effort will be made to have 2 rooms for your hospital stay: one for the surrogate birth mother (and her family), and the other for the intended parents and the baby. If there are any questions, please contact the hospital that has been chosen for delivery.

Hospital: _____

Phone number: _____