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**Families**  
THROUGH  
SURROGACY

Confidence + Connection

# What Has 37 Years Of Surrogacy Experience Taught Us About Best Practices?

Melbourne Australia 2017 Conference

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- A. USA Legal Model
- B. Insurance
- C. 7 Things Experience Has Taught CSP

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## USA MODEL

USA has 2 tier legal system:

1. **Federal Laws** *i.e.*, Immigration, patent, discrimination and tax evasion
2. **State Laws** *i.e.*, Criminal, family, inheritance, real estate and business

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One state can liberally allow surrogacy, while other states may prohibit it.

### The Best Laws:

1. Intended Parents are the parents not the surrogate mother
2. Contracts are enforceable and not against public policy
3. Compensation is permitted and is not “buying” a baby
4. Intended Parent’s names are to be entered on the original birth certificate

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## Considerations

- Marital Status – married/single, opposite sex vs same sex
- Genetic Connection to the Child – sperm donor, egg donor or embryo donor

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## Insurance

- Insurance for Surrogate Mother
- Insurance for Newborn Baby in the USA – YES you can!

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### 7 Things Experience has Taught CSP:

1. Getting in for the wrong reasons
2. Not having a shared vision
3. Becoming lost in the roles
4. Different Priorities & Interests
5. Inability to resolve conflicts
6. Finances
7. Establishing your new identity

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### 1. Getting in for the wrong reasons

Psychological Screening of Surrogate Mothers is a multi-stage process:

- a. Interview & Testing
- b. Strength of integrity & empathy
- c. Trustworthiness & family support
- d. Counsellors available 24/7/365



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## 2. Not having a shared vision of success

- Matching – the “magic” of surrogacy
- Make a good team & feel you can trust her
- Wish lists, expectations, contact before during & after pregnancy, termination, reduction & how many embryos to implant
- Don't add to your list of “what ifs”

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### 3. Becoming lost in the roles

- Share in this pregnancy – give up wine
- Don't drown in this pregnancy & don't micromanage
- Keep some boundaries
- Sometimes we have bad days, this does not mean she wants to keep your baby

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#### 4. Different priorities and interests

- Vacations and making long term plans
- She has a husband, kids and a boss
- You want your baby to be priority
- Stay in touch – calls, Skype, email or Twitter

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### 5. Inability to resolve conflicts

- Kindness and compromise – essential to this relationship
- Use the team you put together
- Health of your baby is #1 Priority

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### 6. Finances always mess things up.

- Written Estimated Cost Sheets
- Clearly written legal contracts explaining these costs & establishing escrow account
- Inspire her to do 110%
- Don't speak about money unless you are okay that she asks you for money

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### 7. Establishing your new identity

- Establishing parental rights in the USA
- Obtaining a Birth Certificate & Passport
- Finalizing parental rights at home

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To a surrogate mother, this journey is her **quest**.

You have to take a leap of faith and complete your own **quest** of a family.

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