



Altruistic Surrogacy in Greece

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Greek Law

able to offer surrogacy (ART) according to law

since 2014 Greek Legislation allows foreign intended parents

Intended parents do not need to attend court hearing

Greek lawyer needs to complete a file which includes:

- 🌀 Birth Certificates
- 🌀 Copy Passports
- 🌀 Medical tests to prove that the baby will be born in a healthy environment
- 🌀 Reason Intended Mother can't carry a pregnancy
- 🌀 Surrogate report from an independent Psychologist
- 🌀 Medical tests

Greek Law provides court mandated transfer of parentage

it takes 2 - 3 months before the court approves the transfer of parentage

After the court approval, the IVF and embryo transfer commences:

- 🌀 Self Cycle
- 🌀 Egg donation
- 🌀 Sperm donation
- 🌀 Embryo donation

Medical Reasons for Surrogacy

- Severe Endometriosis
- Asherman syndrome
- Unicorn uterus
- Removed uterus
- MRKH syndrome
- Multiple miscarriages
- Former cancer diagnosis

Surrogacy Process

- 🌀 The fertility clinic assesses the medical parameters and informs the IPs of the procedure
- 🌀 The commissioning couple and surrogate go through the legal process with an appointed lawyer
- 🌀 Court approval
- 🌀 IVF treatment takes place

Surrogacy Process

- 🌀 Once IVF is successful, the pregnancy monitored closely by team of experts
- 🌀 commissioning couple can attend all major obstetric visits
- 🌀 Greek birth certificate with the intended parents names
- 🌀 commissioning couple register the baby under their name

The IVF Program

- 🌀 Ovarian Stimulation (if own eggs)
- 🌀 Oocyte donor matching (if donor eggs)
- 🌀 Artificial Preparation of the surrogate's uterus
- 🌀 Oocyte Fertilization
- 🌀 PGS to select chromosomally normal embryos - optional
 - 🌀 also used for gender testing
 - 🌀 but gender selection not permitted
- 🌀 High Laboratory Standards are vital
- 🌀 Transfer 1-2 embryos and the remaining are frozen

The Surrogate

Medical tests:

- ⊙ Chromosomal and single gene disorders such as cystic fibrosis
- ⊙ STDs
- ⊙ Obstetric history
- ⊙ evaluation by independent psychiatrist
- ⊙ Family Status

Some of the tests are not a pre-requisite but should be performed to ensure optimal surrogate health mother during preparation of endometrium, pregnancy, labour and post-partum

The Surrogate

must have completed her family by law

She needs to show:

- ④ Proof of fertility
 - ④ Absence of previous pregnancy complications
 - ④ No more than 2 caesarians
 - ④ Stable character, high moral person and enthusiastic
 - ④ No smoking, alcohol or drugs
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- ④ Ensures reduced tensions and willingness to persevere

Surrogacy Difficulties

Occasionally a surrogacy program is terminated due to:

- 🌀 Negative court decision, mostly when the Intended Mother is >50 yrs or already has children
- 🌀 Repeated IVF failure if own gametes are used and the couple do not consent to donor eggs
- 🌀 The surrogate wishes to withdraw, which can occur at any time, except during pregnancy!
- 🌀 Miscarriage - especially at late stage

Discussion about possible obstacles

- This is crucial
- As problems can generate intense emotions between the couple, the surrogate and the clinical team
- it is not easy to abandon a program and especially for the couple to start the same process all over again...

Discussion topic: Female and Male Factor

- Egg & Sperm quality need assessing upfront
- Men with poor sperm quality need to be informed that success rates can be lower.
- even “good” quality sperm can lead to higher incidence of biochemical pregnancies
- A crucial yet delicate matter to discuss upfront is preparedness to use donor eggs/sperm if required
- This decision can have an important impact on success rates and hence the decision to proceed

Pregnancy

- intended parents attend (*if possible*) at important stages
 - the first positive b-HCG
 - nuchal translucency
 - 2nd trimester ultrasound
 - 3rd trimester tests
- pregnancy monitoring is laborious as parties expect answers to all questions
- It requires constant coordinator involvement

Birth

takes place in a private birth clinic

If there is a possibility of C section a couple of days earlier the parents are informed

Greek Surrogacy for Australian citizens

- ⌘ Altruistic (*except for reasonable expenses*)
- ⌘ Available to couples (*married or not*) and single women
- ⌘ Create embryos from own genetic material or donor eggs/sperm.
- ⌘ Citizenship and Passport from Aust embassy
- ⌘ Surrogate must have provided written consent
- ⌘ DNA testing for citizenship

Exit procedure for Australian citizens

- 🌀 Baby not eligible for Greek citizenship
- 🌀 Australian citizenship Application can take 4-5 weeks
- 🌀 Families Through Surrogacy can assist with the application
- 🌀 Australian passport issued in ~ 1 week

Exit procedure for Australian citizens

- 🌀 your solicitor can prepare an affidavit which the surrogate will sign.
- 🌀 The Greek court transfer of Parentage will help the Family Court to rule positively because surrogacy is legal and altruistic in Greece

ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΟΥΜΕ!
THANK YOU!

We are looking forward to
welcoming you to our
clinic
and make your dream
come true.



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