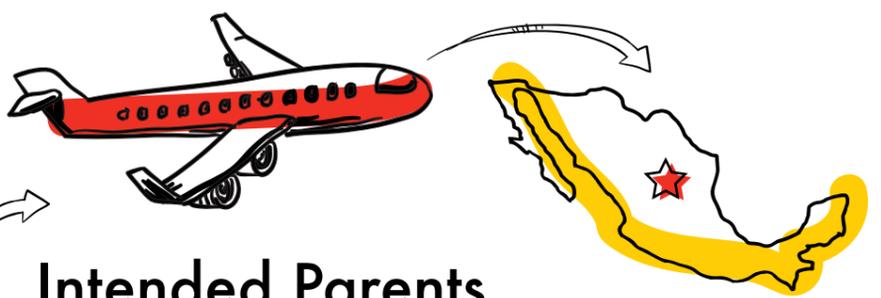


International Commercial Surrogacy

Defining Risks, Driving Change

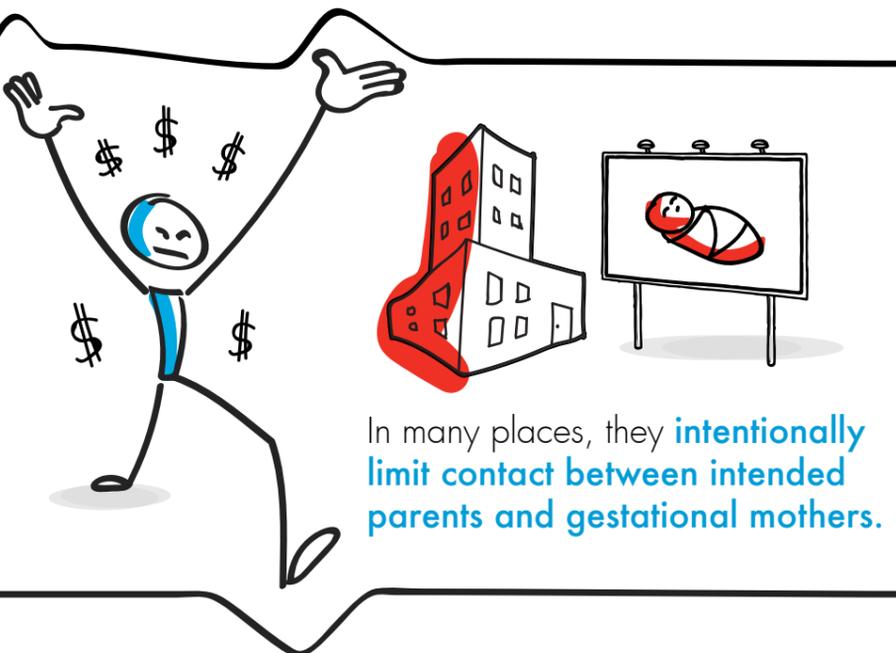


Intended Parents

The journey to create a family takes many intended parents outside their country for surrogacy. Too often, they **are denied basic information about the risks, to themselves and the resulting children, and to the health and rights of gestational mothers** (or “surrogates”). This can change. Surrogacy360 offers reliable reporting and research on the risks, and steps intended parents can take to improve the practice.

Go-Betweens

Go-betweens handle different aspects of the process. They include fertility clinics, agencies, local recruiters, businesses related to travel, tourism, law, and immigration.



In many places, they **intentionally limit contact between intended parents and gestational mothers.**

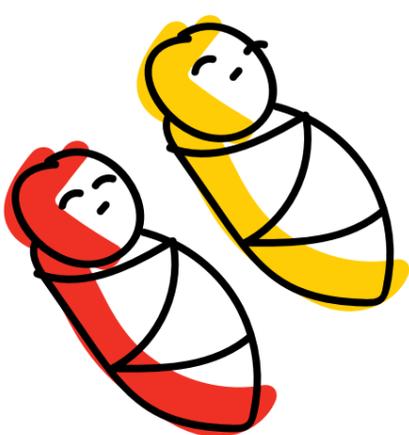
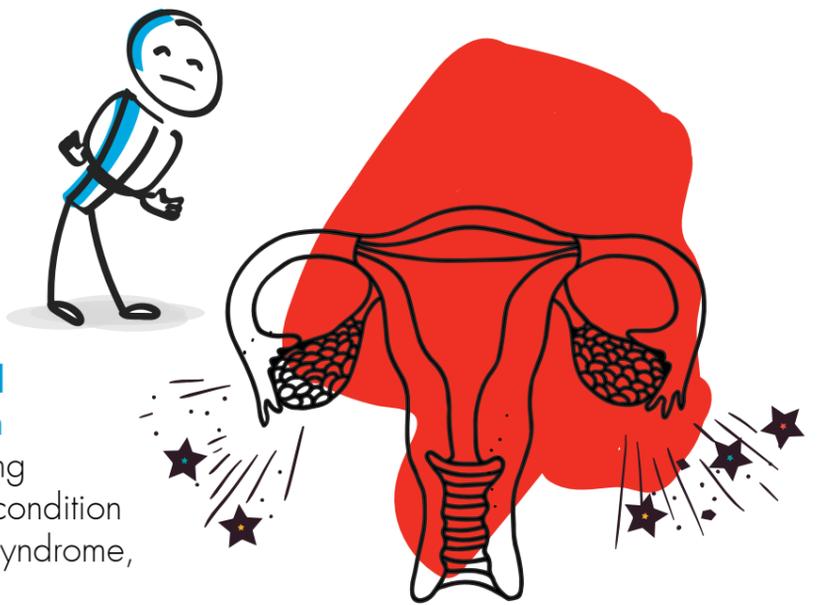


Gestational Mothers

Gestational mothers often live in poverty; many cannot read contracts and give informed consent. With little negotiating power, their **health is routinely undermined by medically unnecessary procedures (such as multi-embryo transfers and cesarean sections).** In some countries, such as India, they have been isolated from family, required to live in dormitory style “residences,” with restricted movement and frequent surveillance.

Egg Providers

Many commercial surrogacy arrangements rely on eggs provided by someone other than the intended mother or the gestational mother. Egg providers **are typically not given information about potential long-term risks (and lack of safety data) associated with egg retrieval.** Short-term risks, including the painful and sometimes dangerous condition known as Ovarian Hyper-Stimulation Syndrome, are also often minimized.



Children

Children in commercial surrogacy **are at risk due to routine multi-fetal pregnancies (and resulting prematurity and low birth weight) and medically unnecessary cesarean sections.** In some countries, their citizenship, immigration status, and legal parentage are also open to challenge, with cases of intended parents being denied travel documents to bring their child home or forced to live in limbo while their child’s legal status is resolved.