

BREEDERS

AN EBOOK BY THE CENTER FOR BIOETHICS AND CULTURE



My Experience as a Surrogate

I am a doula and a mother. I have been a caretaker most of my life. I became pregnant easily and I felt empathy for women who couldn't get pregnant and become mothers. For me, being a surrogate was about helping. It was not about money.

Perhaps I thought I could "fix" her pain. Giving her a child did not fix her but it sure wrecked me.

I thought being a surrogate would be all positive but it broke my heart. I was naive and did not comprehend the consequences surrogacy would have to my family and to the resulting child. I was ignorant of the pain and grief I would cause. I miss him so much.

They reimbursed some of my pregnancy expenses but we refused the compensation they offered. I did not receive any money for my son. I did not receive gifts of cash, trips, jewelry, or deposits to my children's college funds. I did not receive any money "under the table." Being a surrogate and

making them a family has cost my family tens of thousands of dollars in legal bills.

We agreed that my family would have an ongoing relationship with the child before he was even conceived.

During my pregnancy we spent a lot of time together. We had some bumps along the way but most of the time they told me what I wanted to hear. After my son was born they cut contact as soon as they possibly could. It is not all right to hurt another family to create your own.

Despite attending many hours of counseling together they refused to accept that it is healthy for him to know his whole story and to have a relationship with us.

Despite Court Orders they stopped coming to visits when my son became old enough to ask questions. They want to pretend I don't exist.

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“ We fought another legal battle for over a year. I eventually gave in as my heart and mind couldn't take any more fighting. I did not give up, I gave in because I love him. I don't know if I will ever forgive myself for what I did and I carry a lot of anger towards myself. If I was raising my son he would grow up knowing the love of ALL the members of his family.

He deserves to know the truth. It is his story and he will not be a child forever. In his annual photo he has the saddest eyes I've ever seen.

I had to choose between keeping my son and keeping my word and I made the wrong choice. I hope one day he will choose to have a relationship with us.

I would never encourage someone to be a surrogate or a sperm (or egg) donor. The emotional consequences are life altering and life long.

-Heather

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“Breeder: A Subclass of Women?”
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