

Surrogate Parenting

Brief History of Surrogacy

- 1944 – Harvard Medical School professor John Rock successfully **fertilized a human ova outside the uterus**.
- 1977 – Steptoe and Edwards (who would receive the 2010 Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine for this work) successfully carried out the first in vitro fertilization of a human to result in a life birth: **Louise Brown**, born on 25 July 1978 in Oldham General Hospital, Greater Manchester, UK.
- 1980 – Michigan lawyer Noel Keane wrote the **first surrogacy contract**. He continued his work with surrogacy through his Infertility Center, through which he created the contract leading to the Baby M case.
- 1985 – A woman carried the **first successful gestational surrogate pregnancy**.
- 1986 – Melissa Stern, otherwise known as "Baby M," was born in the U.S., to surrogate and biological mother, Mary Beth Whitehead.
- 1990 – In California, gestational mother Anna Johnson refused to give up the baby to biological and intended social parents Mark and Crispina Calvert. The Court defined the “true mother” as the woman who, according to the surrogacy agreement, intends to create and raise a child.

The Surrogate Mother

- (1) **embryo transfer** (the egg donor) (using IVF)
- (2) **surrogate embryo transfer** (a “gestational surrogate,” the womb donor) (using IVF)
- (3) **surrogate mother** (a “traditional surrogate,” the egg-and-womb donor) (using insemination of the woman, either naturally or artificially)

Parents

Biological parents = donor of egg or sperm (genetic matter).

Gestational mother = carries the embryo/fetus to term in her uterus.

Social parent(s) = assumes responsibility for the care and rearing of the born child.

Intentional parent(s) = initiates the process leading to the pregnancy and birth.

Who is/are the **real** parents?

Worries about Surrogacy

Roman Catholic position: exploits women and dehumanizes babies

Exploits women: uses women as mere baby factories.

Exploits poor women: poor women will be donors to rich women.

Baby selling: this is illegal!

Informed consent: can a person properly “know” if they can go through with the donation? Can a woman consent to gestational surrogacy *before* the gestation?