

Commercial surrogacy creates a *marketplace* where women's bodies are purchased for breeding and children are traded.

The process of commercial surrogacy:

1



Eggs and/or sperm are sourced:

"Intended parent(s)" (IPs) provide their own gametic material (egg or sperm) or they buy egg and/or sperm from a seller (often incorrectly referred to as a "donor.")

Regarding egg sellers: *Agencies tend to prefer women with specific characteristics, which they promise to commissioning parents. The demand is frequently shaped by racist and postcolonial stereotypes, as young, white, Western women with higher education receive up to 100 times more for their egg cells than others.**

2



Embryos are created in a petri dish and often ranked:

Eggs and sperm are fertilized into multiple embryos and usually graded by quality and viability. "Preimplantation genetic testing" is often also used to ensure the embryo has desired physical traits. This can be seen as modern-day eugenics.

*The possible genomic-based screening of embryos for behavioral, psychosocial and/or intellectual traits would be reminiscent of the history of eugenics in its attempt to eliminate certain individuals.***

3



A womb is rented:

Often, another woman (surrogate/"carrier") is implanted with the chosen embryo. She is likely not the same woman who provided gametic material. She must follow the contract's medical, dietary, and lifestyle requirements from the IPs, which often include an abortion requirement if the baby does not meet desired health standards.

*Surrogate mothers are generally women or girls who have previously given birth to at least one child. Their motivations are often multifaceted, combining financial, empathetic and social considerations. . . . When they are described as "service providers" rather than mothers, it creates an impression that compromising their dignity and well-being could be justified by the existence of a contract.**

4



Baby is stripped from mother ("carrier") and sold to new parents:

If the pregnancy goes according to contract and the baby is born, the IPs pay the surrogate for womb rental and assume legal custody, removing the child from the only person he or she has known for nine months—the surrogate. There are often few safeguards around who can be intended parents, leaving innocent babies vulnerable.

*From birth, they experience immediate separation from the woman who carried them and are transferred to the commissioning parents – a process that can be emotionally and developmentally significant.**

*UN General Assembly, [Violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences](#)

** National Institute of Health's [National Humane Genome Research Institute](#)

WOMEN ARE NOT FOR RENT BABIES ARE NOT FOR SALE



The steep price of commercial surrogacy:

Service / Component	Typical Cost & Explanation
Surrogate Base Compensation	~\$45,000–\$80,000+ <i>Depends on experience, where she lives, any bonuses (multiples, C-section, etc.).</i>
Agency Fees	\$25,000–\$60,000+ <i>This covers matching fees, coordination, case management, etc.</i>
Medical / IVF / Embryo Creation and Transfer	\$15,000–\$40,000+ (per cycle) <i>Depends on whether egg/sperm donors are needed, the number of IVF cycles, etc. Dollar amount could increase if using genetic testing, freezing, or storage of embryos.</i>
Legal Fees	\$8,000–\$15,000+ <i>Covers contracts, parental rights, attorneys for intended parents and surrogate, etc.</i>
Insurance & Health-Related Costs	\$10,000+ <i>Includes health insurance or pregnancy-related care for the surrogate, possibly surrogacy-specific policies, maternity, delivery. This can also include travel if needed for the surrogate.</i>
Miscellaneous & Allowances	Varies <i>Travel, housing, maternity clothing allowances, lost wages, child care (if needed) etc.</i>
Total Range:	\$100,000 - \$200,000

Our organizations are not favorable to legalizing surrogacy, but we urge public officials considering surrogacy to adopt common-sense legislation and public policies that protect women and children from being bought and sold.



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