

MADE IN INDIA TOOLKIT FOR SURROGATES

“Made in India” shows how surrogates are not always given all of the information available throughout the surrogacy process. You have a right to ask questions to make sure that your rights are protected; as a surrogate you have the right to the knowledge and information about risks to your health, payment and contractual agreements, and the ways surrogacy will affect your family. You also have the right to make decisions about your own health care as a surrogate with full knowledge and information about the risks and benefits of surrogacy. Here are some questions you may want to ask:

HEALTH QUESTIONS:

1. What are the health risks involved in being a surrogate?
2. What medications will I have to take? How may they affect my health?
3. Will I have the right to refuse any procedures or medications I do not want (e.g., selective reduction, cesarean section, etc.)?
4. How many embryos will be implanted in me? Can I decide if I do or do not want to carry multiple babies?
5. What are the possible risks involved in carrying twins or multiples?
6. What are we doing to minimize my risks?
7. Where will I be delivering the baby? What will happen in the case of premature labor?
8. What are the risks involved with cesarean sections? What kind of post-partum care will I receive (following a vaginal or cesarean birth)?

PAYMENT, CONTRACT, AND FAMILY QUESTIONS:

1. How much money will I receive for my services? What is the payment schedule (i.e., how many payments are there and how are the payments broken down)?
2. How much does the commissioning parent believe I am being paid?
3. Is there anyone in between – an agent or middleman – who is also being paid? If so, can we make sure that they are paid separately and that their fee does not come out of my pay?
4. When will I receive my payment? How is my payment affected in the event of premature labor?
5. What contract do I have to sign? Can someone be there to make sure I understand all details of the contract? Will a copy of the contract be translated into my native language? Can I keep a copy of the contract for my records?
6. Will my diet and lifestyle be monitored during my pregnancy? Will I still be able to stay with my family if I want to? If I must reside in separate housing, what arrangements will be made for my family?

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