

From: webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au
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Subject: Online Submission - Investigation into Altruistic Surrogacy Committee

SUBMISSION FROM

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SUBMISSION

Should the legal restrictions and criminal penalties against altruistic surrogacy be removed from the Surrogate Parenthood Act 1988 (Qld)?

Yes. This can be a very touchy subject for many families trying to have a baby. These rules and regulations need to be reconsidered and looked at very carefully.

Should the Queensland Government play a role in regulating altruistic surrogacy arrangements in Queensland?

The Queensland Government can play a role as long as each case can be personalised and individualised but also trying to maintain the simplicity of this. The child's interests needs to be considered enabling them rights to their genetic parents if donor egg and donor sperm is used. Donation of egg, sperm and even uterus is exactly that DONATION.

What criteria, if any, should the commissioning parent/s and/or surrogate have to meet before entering into an altruistic surrogacy arrangement?

The genetic parents should be financially able to provide the necessary needs for that child. Even though these days young children are having babies and they can not even financially support them. (What is financially supportive these days). The genetic parents should have the right to their own baby. If the surrogate has agreed to carry the baby and hand over the baby then that should be enforced. Managing issues can be using a family member to be the surrogate. Contracts between the genetic parents and the surrogate can also be used. They have been donating egg and sperm for years. What's wrong with donating a uterus.

Should criteria for commissioning parents be similar to that for adoptive parents?

The genetic parents are the blood parents of that baby. They should not need to adopt their own blood born child.

What role should a genetic relationship between the child and the commissioning parent/s and/or surrogate play in an altruistic surrogacy arrangement?

The genetic parents should have legal right to their own child. If there is donor egg or donor sperm that women or man has agreed to donate this (to give as a gift). End of story really for them.

Should at least one of the commissioning parents have a genetic relationship with the child?

The genetic parents have right to this child. If the surrogate has agreed to carry this child then that is all that person will do. Incubate only.

Should the surrogate be able to use her gametes or should she have no genetic relationship to the child?

No genetic relationship to this child. It is not hers, she is only incubating this child. If they could transplant a uterus into these women they would have their own child. But some of these women do not have a uterus so they are needing a surrogate to do this for them. A Surrogate is a woman being a substitute for another woman, usually by giving birth to that child on behalf of another woman. If the surrogates gametes are being used this is her child if she pleases so unless she is donating them. Again the word donate (to give as a gift).

What legal rights and responsibilities should be imposed upon the commissioning parent/s and/or surrogate?

If they are donating egg, sperm or uterus then that should be all they are doing. The genetic parents have right to their own blood child. The parents wanting a child who are using donor egg, sperm or uterus should be responsible for that child, not the surrogate. The donors are the donors only. The expenses should be carried out by the parents wanting the child. The surrogate is only helping this man and women have a baby so she the surrogate should not have to endure any expenses.

If infertility and/or health risk to the mother or child is a criterion for surrogacy, how should these criteria be defined?

If the genetic parents need a surrogate because of health reasons this should be allowed. It can be very unfair for a couple not to be able to have a child naturally. Surrogates allow this dream to become reality. Example : a woman without a uterus but with own eggs and man with own sperm. All they need is a uterus. The man and women are the genetic parents of that child. If the surrogate donates her uterus than that is all she is doing. Each criteria needs to be examined individually.

Should the surrogate's rights to be automatically recorded as the child's parent on the birth certificate and to approve legal transfer after birth remain if she has no genetic connection to the child?

No she is not the genetic parent of that child. It should be the genetic parents names on the birth certificate. Again she is only the donor.

What rights should a child born through an altruistic surrogacy arrangement have to access information relating his or her genetic parentage? Who should hold this information?

Again each case needs to be individualised. Whether there is donor egg or donor sperm. The child should have a right to access information relating to their genetic parents at a certain age. The donor needs to be aware when they are donating their egg or sperm that this child has rights as well and if they want to find their genetic parents they should be allowed to do so. But the donor parent should not be financially liable for that child as they have donated for another couple to fulfill their dream.