

Sent: Monday, 28 July 2008 6:12 PM
To: Surrogacy Committee
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)*?

i believe they should be removed. providing there are still strong guidelines ie,specific qualifications (ladies with no uterus ect.) i don't understand why it is illegal. you can make it legal and still have specific processes to go through surrogacy(ie a counselling session for all involved before starting)

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

As long as all emotional grounds and legal documents have been covered prior to the initiation of surrogacy *papperwork should be signed to state that once the child is born the child automatically belongs to the commissioning parents and all papperwork regarding the child should be kept to commissioning parents. The surrogate is normally just the incubator with no contributing DNA

What other issues should be addressed by the Government?

There are so many issues *commissioning parents should be in a long term relationship (maybe 3yrs or more) *as the embryo belongs to commissioning parents, all rights should be on their side

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

*An appointment with a councilor for all involved *Legal documents to state when the child is born, the child automatically belongs to the commissioning parents *The surrogate has no legal responsibilities once the child is born *All medical bills for the surrogate to be paid by the commissioning parents *surrogate should be someone close to the commissioning parents *No monies to be paid to the surrogate for carrying the child, it should be a choice by the surrogate to carry the child *I don't believe someone who can carry a child has the right to go through surrogacy just because they don't want to go through the pregnancy. I would do anything to carry my own child but unfortunatley i don't have that option, i'm 24 and was diagnosed with cervical cancer, and had to have a hysterectomy. This is a very big deal for me as i plan on going through surrogacy to have my own child, even if it does mean i have to move to NSW. It would be so much easier if i could do it in my own state though.

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

No the commissioning parents should be tittled the parents from birth as the DNA belongs to them,the surrogate helps bring a bundle of joy to someones life knowing the child will not belong to them

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

The surrogate should be a family member or a very close friend so they will get to see the child but the relationship between commissioning parents and child should be like any other normal family. *I do believe there will be emotionally concerns for everyone but i feel there should be legal documentation from a councilor stating all parties are aware of the end result and have signed paper work to confirm this.

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

Yes i feel if their is no genetic relation with the child and the commissioning parents, they should not be entitle to surrogacy. They can try for adoption.

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

The commissioning parents should automatically get all rights to their child Medical bills should be covered by the commissioning parents for surrogate

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

medical review

How important is it for there to be a mechanism for the transfer of legal parentage that is specific to surrogacy arrangements? What would this be?

I believe it is very important for the correct parents to be on all paper work.

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 if she has not genetic connection she should not be classed as the parent.

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?

the commissioning parents should have all information