



## *Surrogate Mother Support*

It is our agencies policy to stay involved and support our surrogate mothers throughout the surrogacy arrangement. We do this in multiple ways:

- ❖ Initial Psychological Consult
- ❖ Monthly Teleconferences
- ❖ Assigned Mentors
- ❖ Bi-weekly Calls
- ❖ Case Managers
- ❖ Continual Support & Professionalism

In the initial phase after being matched with Intended Parents, all surrogate mothers will complete a consult with a licensed psychologist and a report will be provided to the IVF clinic indicating whether the surrogate mother is psychologically cleared to proceed with a surrogacy arrangement.

It is our process to assign each surrogate mother a mentor (i.e. member of our staff). The mentor will call the surrogate mother every other week from the start of medications through eight weeks following the birth to talk with them and address any questions or concerns. The call will typically take 10-15 minutes, but may last as long as is necessary to address any concerns and support the surrogate mother throughout the process. The surrogate mother will be provided with contact information to reach her mentor twenty-four hours a day, seven days per week in the case of an emergent situation.

In addition, we have a monthly teleconference which is lead by a Registered Nurse, Licensed Psychologist or Social Worker and all currently matched surrogates may elect to participate. In the teleconference we discuss pre-arranged topics (i.e. coping mechanisms, dealing with stressors, dealing with nausea or hyper-emesis, explaining surrogacy to your children, proper pregnancy nutrition, postpartum depression and more). We endeavor to provide handouts via email prior to the scheduled teleconference for review during the meeting. The call typically takes 30-45 minutes one time per month.

Subsequently, a case manager will be closely involved with the surrogacy arrangement. The case manager is in charge of file management, disbursing payments due per the surrogacy contract, insuring that all medical and insurance bills are paid in a timely manner, coordination of IVF clinic appointments and travel coordination, if applicable.