



Surrogacy UK Rules, Policies and Procedures

1. Membership

1.1 Types of Membership

1.1.1 Surrogate Mothers

(a) Surrogate Mothers may become registered users of the Message Board. Registered users of the Message Board are NOT members of Surrogacy UK and therefore do not have a vote at our AGM.

(b) Gold Membership is free. Gold Members benefit from informal advice via the Message Board, access to private forums on the Message Board, telephone and email support, free Guide to Surrogacy for Surrogate Mothers, free Newsletter, reduced price tickets to attend Conferences. Once an Arrangement has been completed, should the Surrogate Mother enter into a second Surrogacy Arrangement she must re-register and follow the same procedures as before. **If a surrogate mother gives birth to her own baby or a surrogate baby, she must wait 6 months BEFORE making an application to re-register.**

(c) There is a £10 administration fee for retired Surrogate Mothers. This fee allows the retired Surrogate Member to continue receiving the Newsletter and to continue to receive Gold Member benefits. Access to 'Members Only' areas of the Message Board will be withdrawn from retired Surrogates who do not retain membership benefits by paying this fee.

(d) Please note that if a Surrogate Mother chooses to work with Intended Parents who are not Gold Members then her Membership reverts to that of being a registered user of the public Message Board only.

1.1.2 Intended Parents

(a) Intended Parents may become registered users of the Message Board. Registered users of the Message Board are NOT members of Surrogacy UK and therefore do not have a vote at our AGM.

(b) Gold Membership costs £600 for one year and includes an Information Session and a Surrogacy UK Witness at their Agreement Session and additional mediation as and when required. Gold Members benefit from informal advice via the Message Board, access to private forums on the Message Board, telephone and email support, free Newsletter (tri-annual), reduced price tickets to attend Conferences, reduced prices for insemination kits, discounted rates for STI and Cystic Fibrosis testing kits via TDL. After the one year Membership expires, there is a charge of £25 per year for those who have completed a Surrogacy Arrangement and £50 per year for those who have not completed a surrogacy arrangement or couples still actively hoping to have a child through surrogacy. This is to cover administration costs and to cover the costs of sending out our Newsletter. If Intended Parents wish to enter into a second or subsequent Surrogacy Arrangement after the birth of their first child, they will be required to re-register with Surrogacy UK, even if the Agreement is with the same Surrogate Mother.

(c) Intended Parents who wish to pursue a second or subsequent surrogacy arrangement are required to pay an update fee of £200. Those Intended Parents who have not renewed their membership annually will be required to re-register as if they are new Members and the appropriate joining fee will be applicable at that time, i.e. £600 for a one year Membership.

(d) Please note that if Intended Parents choose a Surrogate Mother who does not wish to become a Gold Member of Surrogacy UK then their Membership reverts to that of being registered users of the public Message Board only with no refund of Membership Fees being given.

1.2 Membership Requirements for Intended Parents

Surrogacy UK only accepts applications where applicants meet the necessary legal criteria to qualify for a Parental Order. **Please note that under present and impending UK law single people are not eligible to apply for a Parental Order.**

Surrogacy UK reserves the right to refuse an application for Membership.

1.3 Membership Requirements for Surrogates

Surrogacy UK only accepts applications where applicants meet the following criteria. Applicants should be:

- Over 23 years of age although Surrogacy UK, via its Executive Committee, has the ability to grant exceptions to this rule where the proposed member is able to demonstrate the necessary emotional maturity and resilience



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- Have at least one child of their own and ideally have completed their own family. This may be reconsidered in exceptional circumstances.

Surrogacy UK reserves the right to refuse an application for Membership.

1.4 Applications for Membership

Surrogacy UK requires prospective Members to submit a Surrogacy UK application form, followed by documentation to show proof of STI checks (where applicable), CMV test results (where applicable), police checks, medical reports from the applicants' GP (and other medical specialists if recommended by their GP), and a detailed sperm analysis including MAR test from the Intended Father (straight surrogacy only).

1.5 STI Tests (formerly known as STD Tests)

Surrogacy UK requires all Surrogate Mothers and Intended Fathers undergoing Straight Surrogacy to submit STI checks. We require original documents of the tests. Surrogacy UK requires that the Intended Father has his STI tests repeated prior to commencing inseminations and the results being forwarded to Surrogacy UK. Failure to comply with this policy will result in Gold Membership being terminated. This is to ensure the safety of all parties concerned.

Partners of Surrogate Mothers and Intended Mothers (Straight Surrogacy) are not required to undergo any STI tests unless specifically requested to do so by Surrogacy UK or those involved in their Surrogacy Arrangement.

All parties undergoing Host Surrogacy will have their STI tests completed at their Clinic so there is no need to submit these tests to Surrogacy UK at the time of applying for Membership.

1.6 Police Checks

Surrogacy UK requires all applicants to submit a police check. We require original documents. These checks can be obtained from their local police station or Disclosure Scotland at a nominal cost.

1.7 Police Checks

Data Protection Act 1998

Surrogacy UK aims to comply with all current data protection laws.

2. Surrogacy UK peer support

2.1 Telephone based peer support service

All Members will be allocated a peer support worker on joining. Telephone support will continue until a Parental Order is granted.

2.2 Peer Support Workers and Executive Committee Members

All Peer Support Workers and Executive Committee Members must be Gold members of Surrogacy UK.

2.3 Mediation

Should any problems or difficulties occur at any stage of a Surrogacy Arrangement, Surrogacy UK offers its members full mediation and peer support by telephone or in person. This form of mediation is more appropriate as it allows for issues to be dealt with in real time and prevents the possible misunderstandings that written communication can present. If a Surrogacy Arrangement breaks down, Surrogacy UK recommends a Mediation Session with the Intended Parents in order to update the situation and discuss the correct course of action.

2.4 Newsletter

The Surrogacy UK Newsletter is published 3 times a year. The Newsletter is free for all Gold members. For everyone else the subscription cost is £10 per annum.

2.5 Conferences and social events

Surrogacy UK schedules conferences tri-annually. Social events are also organised by Members themselves in local areas, throughout the year. In order to qualify as a Surrogacy UK sanctioned event at least one Member of the Executive Committee, a former member of the Executive Committee, or a trusted, experienced, SUK member, must attend and the event must be co-ordinated by the Executive Committee or delegated person. Full details of these events are available on the Surrogacy UK Website and Message Board and through the Events Working Party.

2.6 Annual General Meeting

Surrogacy UK holds its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the month of October each year or as soon as practicable after that. All Members are encouraged to attend.

3. Use of the Surrogacy UK Website and Message Board

3.1 Registration

Use of the Surrogacy UK Website is free. Registration to the Surrogacy UK Message Board is free. Users are required to supply a username, which may be your real name or a nickname, a password



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and a valid email address. Membership requires that a post be made at least every four weeks and full compliance with the board rules which are posted within the message board forum, failure to abide by these conditions will result in suspension and possible termination of message board access.

3.2 Public Forums

Anyone may register and use the Message Board for discussion, chat, peer support and advice on the open/public forums.

Surrogacy UK reserves the right to decline registration without specifying a reason.

3.3 Private Forums and Diary Room

Access to the Private Forums and Diary Room is granted once applicants have submitted a Surrogacy UK application form, forwarded all necessary documentation to Surrogacy UK and attended an Information Session. Access to the Diary Room is open only to those members who wish to keep a diary themselves. Only Surrogacy UK Executive and trusted Members may become Moderators of the Message Board.

3.4 Misuse of the Surrogacy UK Website

Surrogacy UK reserves the right to remove user access from the Diary Room at anytime, if deemed necessary. Anyone violating the following rules may be removed from the Private Forums:

- There will be NO copying and pasting and forwarding anything from the private forums.
- There will be NO advertising for Intended Parents or Surrogate Mothers.
- There will be NO advertising to negotiate or facilitate the making of a Surrogacy Arrangement.
- There will be NO making insulting, offensive, or hurtful comments.
- There will be NO divulging anything to others without access, either by email or verbally.

4. Surrogacy UK Fees

Surrogacy UK is a non-profit making organisation. It therefore needs to apply nominal charges to recover its expenditure. Charges are only applied to Intended Parents and are as follows:

4.1 Membership Fees

Surrogacy UK Gold membership for Surrogate Mothers:	FREE
Surrogacy UK Gold membership for Intended Parents (one year):	£600

4.2 Renewal of Membership Fees

For Intended Parents who have successfully completed their Arrangement:	£25
For Intended Parents who have not completed an Arrangement or still hoping to have a child through surrogacy:	£50
For Intended Parents who wish to extend their family with the same Surrogate by pursuing a second or subsequent Arrangement:	£200
For retired Surrogate Mothers who have successfully completed their Arrangement.	£10

5. Finding a Surrogate Mother/Intended Parents

Once all documentation is received and an Information Session has taken place, Surrogacy UK Gold Members are given access to the private forums of the Message Board. Membership does not guarantee that all Members will be able to find a suitable Surrogate Mother or Intended Parents,

6. Members in an Arrangement

6.1 Agreement Session

Surrogacy UK requires that an SUK appointed witness attends any Agreement Session. The Witness will witness the Agreement Session and ensure that all parties complete and sign an official Surrogacy UK Agreement Form. The Agreement Session must take place before inseminations/embryo transfer can commence. If a member does not accept an SUK appointed witness attending their Agreement Session, Surrogacy UK reserves the right to terminate membership with no refund of membership being given. In this case all parties in the surrogacy arrangement would cease to be members of Surrogacy UK and their membership would revert to that of being a registered user of the public Message Board only.

6.2 Surrogate Mother's Expenses

For the purposes of confidentiality it is not necessary for Members in an arrangement to discuss specific sums of money with Surrogacy UK during their agreement session. This can be discussed separately between Intended Parents and their Surrogate Mother and may be referred to in percentage terms during the Agreement Session. Surrogacy UK does not recommend any set amount for expenses as each Surrogates expenses will vary based on their circumstances. When applying for a Parental Order, the courts may ask for a detailed justification of expenses if they believe that they are excessive. Under UK law, expenses may only be paid to cover costs directly related to the



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pregnancy. These are items such as maternity clothing, vitamin supplements, travel, time off work and childcare, etc.

6.3 Life Insurance

Surrogacy UK requires Intended Parents to arrange a two-year Life Insurance policy for their Surrogate Mother, to cover her in the event of death. Payment of premiums should be arranged and paid by the Intended Parents to the insurance company and in full even if an Arrangement fails to succeed. The Life Insurance policy should be in place before an Arrangement proceeds to inseminations or embryo transfer.

6.4 Independent Arrangements

Should a Member couple find a Surrogate Mother independently we would encourage her to join Surrogacy UK in order that she would receive the peer support that other Surrogate Mothers receive. If the Surrogate Mother refuses to join Surrogacy UK

there will be no refund of Membership fees made to the couple and that Arrangement becomes Independent. Surrogacy UK cannot at any time intervene in an Independent Arrangement. If a Surrogate Mother finds a couple she wishes to work with, we would encourage her to ask the couple to join Surrogacy UK in order that both she and her couple can receive support and information. If any Gold Member enters into an Independent Arrangement their Membership is automatically terminated and it reverts

to that of being a registered user of the public Message Board only. Should people already in an Independent Arrangement wish to join Surrogacy UK, they have the right to put their case forward to the Executive Committee. All cases are dealt with on an individual basis. If membership is accepted, Surrogacy UK would require all parties to undergo a combined information/agreement session, the cost of which is included in the membership fee.

6.5 Members trying to conceive

Surrogate Mothers should be aware that although Intended Parents are asked to comply with the Surrogacy UK STI check policy, this does not guarantee that no STIs will be passed on. Surrogacy UK is not held responsible for any STIs the Surrogate Mother may pick up in her Arrangement. Surrogacy UK accepts no responsibility for any consequences caused by the use of insemination kits. Surrogacy UK can neither recommend the use of any fertility drugs nor accept any responsibility for any potential adverse reactions caused by them. Surrogacy UK recommends that Intended Parents and their Surrogate Mother review their situation after 6 (six) months of trying to conceive (straight surrogacy) or 2/3 attempts (host surrogacy) if this period proves to be unsuccessful.

6.6 Cancellation of an Attempt

If Intended Parents cancel an attempt at inseminations, or if their IVF transfer is cancelled, the Surrogate Mother is still to be paid her insemination/embryo transfer expenses. If the Surrogate Mother cancels the attempt herself no expenses are due.

7. After the Birth

7.1 Registering the birth

Surrogacy UK requires you to abide by English or Scottish Law (whichever is applicable) by registering the birth within the set timescales.

7.2 Parental Order

Members should be aware that to be granted a Parental Order, they must fulfil the following criteria. They must be:

- Over 18 years old
- At least one of them must be UK Domiciled
- In an enduring relationship
- At least one of them must be genetically related to the child

7.3 DNA testing

Although not compulsory, Surrogacy UK advocates the use of DNA testing in order to ensure peace of mind and for legal reasons associated with paternity.

7.4 Contact after the birth

Surrogacy UK advises Members in an Arrangement to consider and agree prior to achieving a pregnancy, how much contact they intend to have after the birth.

7.5 Peer support after the birth



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Surrogacy UK continues to provide support for all of its Surrogate members after the birth for a period of one year. Surrogacy UK continues to provide support for all of its Intended Parent members after the birth for the length of their membership.

SURROGACY UK WILL ALWAYS SUPPORT AND OPERATE WITHIN UK SURROGACY LAWS.

SURROGACY UK RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AMEND ITS POLICIES AT ANY TIME.