

The Gay Man's Guide to Becoming a Dad



PATH2PARENTHOOD

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For Gay Men who wish to be dads, surrogacy and egg donation are viable routes to parenthood, as is adoption.

If you are thinking about becoming a dad and considering all your options, this is a very exciting time for you. Whether you are single or are part of a couple, the first thing you need to consider is if you wish to have a genetic link to your child. Adoption and foster care adoption are wonderful ways to create a family with a child who is waiting for you. Surrogacy and egg donation will afford you the opportunity to have a biological connection to your baby.

Surrogacy and Egg Donation

- There are two types of surrogates, traditional and gestational.
- A traditional surrogate supplies her own eggs and also carries the baby to term. If you utilize a traditional surrogate, she will need to surrender her parental rights to your baby upon birth. Traditional surrogates sometimes require In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) in order to conceive and are typically friends or relatives of one of the potential dads.

- A more widely used choice today is to work with a gestational carrier and a separate egg donor. A gestational carrier does not supply her own eggs and has no genetic link to your baby. Egg donors are typically anonymous. Photographs of the donor are often available, either current and/or baby pictures. The egg donor's medical history will be made available to you, and a genetic screening and psychological screening will be done. This type of arrangement always requires IVF.
- Traditional surrogates and gestational carriers will need to undergo both physical and psychological evaluation prior to attempting pregnancy, as will your egg donor.

First Things First

If you opt to work with a gestational carrier and an egg donor, it is important to note that the quality of donor/surrogacy agencies varies greatly. It is best to work with an IVF clinic, a donor and surrogacy agency or agencies, and an attorney specializing in assisted reproduction legal matters.



Choosing the team that will help you to achieve parenthood may very well be one of the most important decisions you will make in your lifetime and can have lasting consequences not only for you but for your baby as well.

Working with an IVF Clinic

When you are considering your choice of an IVF clinic, questions to ask include:

- In what year was your clinic established?
- Do you offer both egg donation and surrogacy on site? If not, can you recommend a donor agency and/or surrogacy agency experienced in working with the gay community?
- Can you recommend an assisted reproduction attorney who is well versed in surrogacy and family law for the gay community?
- If I identify an assisted reproduction attorney and/or a donor/surrogacy agency that I wish to work with, will you accommodate my choice?
- What is your success rate for this procedure?
- What if it doesn't work the first time? What are our options and costs for subsequent attempts?
- What medical tests will I need to have done prior to giving a sperm sample?
- How can we assure the health and well-being of both our gestational carrier and our egg donor throughout this process?
- Are you registered with the Food and Drug Administration as a Human Cell and Tissue Establishment?
- Are you a member of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM)? Do you follow ASRM guidelines on protocols concerning number of embryos transferred?

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- What percentage of your clients are gay?
- How do we become matched with a surrogate/donor through your program?
- What are your fees?

Working with a Donor/Surrogacy Agency

Questions to ask your potential donor/surrogacy agency include:

- In what year was your agency established?
- Do you offer both egg donation and surrogacy?
- What is your success rate?
- Are you a member of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine?
- What percentage of your clients is gay?
- Can you recommend an assisted reproduction attorney experienced in surrogacy and egg donor arrangements in my state of residence as well as in the states where my surrogate and egg donor reside who is also familiar and up-to-date with family laws affecting the LGBT community?
- What extra legal steps, if any, need to be taken by my partner or by myself once our baby is born?
- How do we become matched with a surrogate?
- How do we become matched with an egg donor?
- Will we have a surrogacy contract and an assisted reproduction attorney available to represent us? Does my partner need his/her own assisted reproduction attorney? What about our surrogate and donor; do they require separate legal counsel?

YOU WILL BE WORKING WITH BOTH AN IVF CLINIC AND AN AGENCY: OR A REPRODUCTIVE ATTORNEY. CHOOSING THE TEAM THAT WILL HELP YOU TO ACHIEVE PARENTHOOD MAY VERY WELL BE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS YOU WILL MAKE IN YOUR LIFETIME AND CAN HAVE LASTING CONSEQUENCES NOT ONLY FOR YOU BUT FOR YOUR BABY AS WELL.



- How will changing laws about same-sex marriage and surrogacy arrangements affect us or our child(ren) in the future?
- What medical tests will I need to have done prior to giving a sperm sample?
- Can sperm samples from both me and my partner be combined? How is this accomplished? Does this always result in a multiple pregnancy?
- How can we assure the health and well-being of both our gestational carrier and our egg donor throughout this process?

There is also good news for intended fathers who are HIV positive. A new sperm washing and testing process now makes fatherhood possible. If either one or both male partners are HIV positive, **call The P2P helpline at 888-917-3777** for a list of donor/surrogacy agencies and IVF Centers who will be happy to work with you.

Working with an Assisted Reproduction Attorney

Protecting your family and most especially your children are of paramount importance. In assisted reproduction matters, the legal groundwork needs to be established for the rest of your lives. Issues concerning parental rights establishment, birth certificates and passports for the child(ren) and other matters need to be discussed with an experienced and reputable attorney who has an expertise in assisted reproduction laws and other family formation laws that affect LGBT families. Questions to ask your assisted reproduction attorney include:

- Are you experienced in surrogacy and egg donor arrangements in my state of residence as well as in the states where my surrogate and egg donor reside, and are you also familiar and up-to-date with family laws affecting the LGBT community?
- What extra legal steps, if any, need to be taken by my partner or by myself once our baby is born?
- Does my partner need his own assisted reproduction attorney? What about our surrogate and donor; do they require separate legal counsel?

- How will changing laws about same-sex and surrogacy arrangements affect us or our child(ren) in the future?
- Will my partner and I need a co-parenting agreement if a co-parent adoption is not available in my state of residence? Will this assure that each of us have equal rights and status as parents?
- Can both my partner's name and my name be on the birth certificate? Are any additional steps required in order for us to obtain a birth certificate or passport for the child(ren)? Will our baby be recognized as ours when we travel to other states and countries?
- Will you be our liaison at the hospital?
- What are your fees?





The benefits of healthy food are manifold, and you probably already know that berries are at the top of the Good For You list. But did you know that berries' most beneficial compound, phytochemicals, function as antioxidants? Or that antioxidants such as pomegranate juice are currently being touted as especially beneficial for male reproductive health? Well now you do. So what are you waiting for? Liquefy, and drink up!



Pomegranate Berry Smoothie



Ingredients

One cup fresh organic raspberries

One cup fresh organic strawberries, sliced.

1 1/2 cups unsweetened pomegranate juice

1 1/2 cups lowfat vanilla or plain yogurt

One cup ice cubes or crushed ice

Optional: Pinch of honey



Directions

Place all ingredients into a blender and liquefy until smooth. Stop as needed to scrape down the sides with a rubber spatula.

Serves Two

ADOPTION

Adoption laws vary from state to state on many issues concerning the gay community, including second parent adoption. It is critical that you work with either an agency or an adoption attorney who specializes in adoption by gay men and understands the laws in your state of residence as well as in the state or country in which your child is born.

There are a number of different types of adoption that you may wish to consider, including

- **Individual, or Single Parent Adoption** – One unmarried person attempts to adopt a child that has been put up for adoption by either the State, or the birth parent(s).
- **Joint Adoption of an Unmarried Couple** – An unmarried couple attempts to adopt a child put up for adoption by either the State, or the birth parent(s).
- **Joint Adoption of a Married Couple** – A married couple attempts to adopt a child put up for adoption by either the State, or the birth parent(s).
- **Second Parent Adoption** – This occurs when one parent already has legal rights to the child and the other parent petitions for joint rights.
- **Step Parent, or Domestic Partner Adoption** – This occurs when a child is already living with both same sex parents.
- **Guardianship** – Guardianship does not provide the same legal rights that adoption does, but can be considered if adoption is not a viable alternative in your particular case.

Gay couples and individuals are able to successfully adopt both domestically and internationally. Foster care adoption is also a viable way to create your family. Hundreds of thousands of children of varying ages are currently available to be placed in loving homes and might very well be the right fit for your family.

Helping Your Family Tree Grow Through
Surrogacy & Egg Donation



Family Tree

Surrogacy Center, LLC



Call Us @ 619-271-4093 or visit us online at
www.FamilyTreeSurrogacy.com



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Path2Parenthood (P2P) is an inclusive organization committed to helping people create their families by providing leading-edge outreach programs and timely educational information. The scope of our work encompasses reproductive health, infertility prevention and treatment, and family-building options including adoption and third party solutions. P2P is a national, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization headquartered in New York City.

www.path2parenthood.org



Path2Parenthood's education and outreach program for gay men is made possible in part by a generous unrestricted grant from FAMILY TREE SURROGACY CENTER, LLC