

# Surrogacy today

With commercial gestational surrogacy becoming ever more common among couples and individuals unable or unwilling to carry their children, it seems timely to address some of the issues related to that practice.

Little is written about the effect on the surrogate. There is the obvious emotional effect of carrying and nurturing a child, then having to give that child away. There is also the danger that the parent or parents may pressure the surrogate for abortion when multiple embryos are implanted or when the fetus shows a condition that the parents are unwilling to live with. Then there is “selective reduction” which is a euphemism for killing the “extra” fetuses who were implanted.

International surrogacy has its own special issues. Couples, usually Western couples, have babies gestated at a very low cost to them which is still more money than most of the women from third world countries could hope to earn in a lifetime. So what’s the problem?

Some women are pressured into surrogacy by their families in order to make extra money. Many of these women are unable to read the contracts they’re required to sign. Many women are kept in specific locations and are forced to deliver by cesarean section, which is a far more risky procedure. There is no guarantee the women will receive the full payment that they were promised. If they are implanted with multiple embryos and the couple only wants one child, the other children are often sold on the black market to anyone willing to pay the price – the parents have no idea this has happened to one or more of their children.

For these reasons and more, Human Life Alliance continues to stand by our original statement on surrogacy as written in 1987:



## HLA's Statement on Surrogacy

WHEREAS the practice of surrogate motherhood dehumanizes and depersonalizes both woman and child, reducing the essence of humanity into raw material which can be manipulated, commercialized and expended, and

WHEREAS the practice of surrogate motherhood undermines the sanctity of life, recommending abortion in most contracts if the unborn child is expected to have handicaps, and

WHEREAS the practice of surrogate motherhood exploits women, treating the biological mother as a mere receptacle, denying her natural inclinations toward bonding family life, and

WHEREAS the practice of surrogate parenting strikes at the integrity of marriage, motherhood and fatherhood, all necessary foundations for healthy families and a healthy society.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT HUMAN LIFE ALLIANCE OPPOSES ANY LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD RECOGNIZE OR LEGALIZE THE PRACTICE OF SURROGATE PARENTING, AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT HUMAN LIFE ALLIANCE CALLS UPON MEMBERS OF THE MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE TO BAN THE PRACTICE OF SURROGATE PARENTING.

*Passed by the Coordinating Committee of Human Life Alliance September 14, 1987*