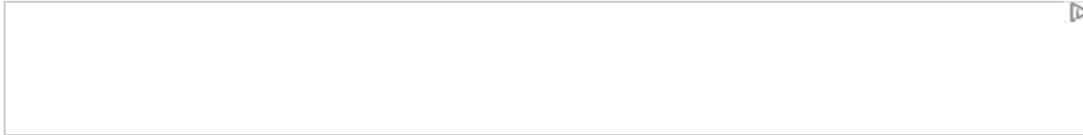


WASHINGTONIAN ALL-ACCESS SUBSCRIPTION Click here!

WASHINGTONIAN

- FOOD & DRINK HEALTH HOMES PEOPLE & POLITICS STYLE TRAVEL WHERE & WHEN WEDDINGS WORK & FAMILY REAL ESTATE NEIGHBORHOOD GUIDES VISITORS GUIDE BEST OF WASHINGTON TOP DOCTORS TOP LAWYERS BARS RESTAURANTS EVENTS CALENDAR



Work & Family

How to Pick a Surrogacy Agency

Learn how to avoid scams, plus a list of local agencies.



Illustration by Chris Philpot.

Comments (5) | Published August 28, 2013

Surrogacy agencies aren't regulated, and it can be hard to distinguish the reputable firms from the scams. In 2011, for example, the FBI busted a baby-selling ring led in part by Hilary Neiman, a Chevy Chase resident who founded Rockville's now-defunct National Adoption and Surrogacy Center. The leaders of the ring had flown surrogates to the Ukraine for insemination and, when the pregnancies reached the second trimester, offered the babies to prospective parents for more than \$100,000 each, according to the FBI.

To avoid these types of scams, experts say you should ask to speak with current and former clients. "If they don't let you do that, that's a huge alarm bell," says Diane Hinson, founder of Creative Family Connections in Chevy Chase. Also ask how many cases they've handled. Hinson advises against using firms that have a financial interest in another business entity, such as a particular fertility clinic or insurance company.

Another red flag: any company that says it's okay for the same attorney to represent both the intended parents and the surrogate. Each should have a separate lawyer. (You can also find a surrogate without using an agency and hire lawyers to handle the contract.)

See Also What It's Like to Have Someone Else's Baby What would make a woman want to go through pregnancy and childbirth to carry a baby —or three—for a couple she just met?

MUST READS

Food Diaries: How Nutritionist and Cookbook Author Robyn Webb Eats for a Day

Yes, a healthy diet can include chocolate.

Listing We Love: An Urban Loft in Penn Quarter

Double-height ceilings and oversize windows make this corner condo bright and airy.

Rose's Luxury Opens Its All-You-Can-Eat Roof Garden

How to book the new hottest table in town.

Greek Rush: Trapezaria (Restaurant Review)

The convivial Rockville restaurant Trapezaria is nearly as transportive as a ticket to Athens.

This Illegal Drone Footage of DC Is Beautiful

A view of Washington is so good, it should be against the law. Actually, it is.

ADVERTISEMENT

Before signing on with an agency, you should have a face-to-face meeting, even if by video conference. Ask the agency staff to describe a situation in which a match didn't turn out well for the intended parents and what the agency did about it. Also ask how they screen surrogates and how often candidates are declined.

Intended parents can pay as much as \$100,000 for the entire process when using their own eggs, or up to \$130,000 when using an egg donor, depending on the fertility clinic and the number of IVF cycles necessary. On top of the surrogate's compensation, the cost might include a \$20,000 agency fee, at least \$15,000 for an IVF transfer, and several thousand dollars' worth of medical and legal fees, travel, and perhaps lost wages and child-care expenses.

Respected agencies select candidates who are emotionally and financially stable, with at least one spouse gainfully employed. They can't be on welfare, in the middle of a divorce, or offered so much money that the situation could be considered coercive.

Surrogates are required to have had at least one healthy pregnancy and delivery, and they should be finished having their own children. Most agencies have an age cutoff between 42 and 45.

Agencies should spell out in advance what happens if clients aren't happy with their surrogate or if they change their minds during fertility treatments, before the pregnancy begins. Reputable agencies should refund the money that the agency and surrogate have not yet earned.

### Here are the major agencies in this region:

**ARTparenting**, 1004 Willowleaf Way, Potomac; 301-217-0074.

**Center for Surrogate Parenting**, 9 State Cir., Suite 302, Annapolis; 410-990-9860.

**Creative Family Connections**, 2 Wisconsin Cir., Suite 700, Chevy Chase; 240-235-6006.

**Reproductive Possibilities**, One Paragon Dr., Suite 160, Montvale, N.J.; 201-505-0078.

Categories: [People & Politics](#) [Work & Family](#)

Like

61

Tweet

15

g+1

3

11

SUBSCRIBE TO WASHINGTONIAN

## DISCUSS THIS STORY

Feel free to leave a comment or ask a question. The Washingtonian reserves the right to remove or edit content once posted.



**WASHINGTONIAN**  
**FIT FEST**  
2014

**SATURDAY, JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup>**  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC  
\$25.00

A DAY OF WELLNESS  
FOR WASHINGTONIAN WOMEN

**BUY TICKETS**



GET THE LATEST  
**WELCOME  
GUIDE**  
**READ IT NOW**

## Find a ...

Home, Restaurant, etc...

SEARCH

Or Search Editors' Lists

Restaurants: 100 Very Best

Restaurants: Cheap Eats

Drinks: Great Bars

Restaurants: First Look

## Newsletters

I would like to receive the following **free** email newsletters:

Bridal Party

Shop Around

Sort by Best

Share Favorite



Join the discussion...



Surromom · 8 months ago

I agree, I think it's rude to just post an ad and not comment on the story!

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share



Former Surrogate · 8 months ago

I think Vicki's 'comment' should be removed as it is just an ad for her agency.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share



WeeCareSurrogacy USA · 8 months ago

To be frank me and my wife went around many agencies but at last we are successful at wee care surrogacy (yashoda hospital)

^ | v · Reply · Share



Barrie · 8 months ago

This is a great story and reads very true. There are lots of scams out there right now and lots of FBI investigations on-going. Please be safe with your money guys and think about the fantastic job the surrogate does for you for the whole period and beyond.

if you need advice on Surrogacy then may i make a suggestion and pass on the details for he British Surrogacy Center of California. <http://www.bsc-america.com/>

^ | v · Reply · Share



Vicki Ferrara · 8 months ago

Attorney Vicki Ferrara owner and legal director of Worldwide Surrogacy Specialists <http://www.assistedreproductio...> will be one of the guest speakers for the 9th Annual Men Having Babies at JCC in Manhattan. This event is an excellent way to learn everything you need to know about the Surrogacy journey...

Register online at:

<http://www.menhavingbabies.org...>

^ | v · Reply · Share

ALSO ON THE WASHINGTONIAN

WHAT'S THIS?

For Creigh Deeds, All Politics Is Personal | People & Politics | ...

7 comments · 3 days ago



Fellow Bath Countian — As someone who grew up in the small town described above, it is needless to say ...

Plunging In Head-First | Anecdotes | Washingtonian

4 comments · 8 days ago



Vicki V — Thanks, everyone for all the nice comments!

The Real-Estate Maven's Guide to Rogue Nations | Miscellaneous | ...

1 comment · 3 days ago



rscottakin@gmail.com — Quirky & great idea for quick feature -- Well done! Great nugget about Taft's portrait still ...

Theater Review: "The Love of the Nightingale" at Constellation ...

1 comment · 9 days ago



Theatre 101 — "assuredness" Isn't a word. This play deserves way more than your 3 1/2 star rating and the chorus ...

Dining Out       Where & When  
 Kliman Online       Well+Being  
 Photo Ops

Email Address

[SIGN UP](#) [Learn more](#)



**Tweets** Follow

**Washingtonian** @washingtonian 2m  
The British Embassy went meta last night with a party to celebrate a book about the British Embassy: [bit.ly/Rrvpvc](http://bit.ly/Rrvpvc)

**Washingtonian** @washingtonian 43m  
Joe's Seafood, Prime Steak & Stone Crab brings Miami to DC. Read the full review: [bit.ly/1I2I4A2](http://bit.ly/1I2I4A2)  
Expand

**Washingtonian** @washingtonian 1h  
Edens, the development firm that built Union Market, wants to build apartments and retail nearby: [bit.ly/1fZiw7c](http://bit.ly/1fZiw7c)  
Expand

**Gerald Loeb Awards** @LoebAwards 2h  
Finalist announced for #LoebAwards comp: @AlexndraRobbins @washingtonian for "Children Are Dying" in Magazines [prn.to/1mGcPtd](http://prn.to/1mGcPtd)  
Retweeted by Washingtonian  
Show Summary

**Washingtonian** @washingtonian 2h  
Sweetlife is sold out, but there are plenty of other  
Tweet to @washingtonian

Subscribe Add Disqus to your site



Take a demo and get your free guide: **Branding Rules**

Marketing can be hard.  
**Vocus** makes it easy.

**DOWNLOAD NOW**

**VOCUS**  
Marketing Cloud

[Home](#) [Subscribe](#) [Advertise](#) [Special Events](#) [Cover Archive](#) [Internships](#) [About Us](#) [Letter from the Editor](#) [Writer's Guidelines](#) [Email Newsletters](#)

---

[Contact Us](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Site Map](#) ©2014 Washington Magazine, Inc.