BFS Statement on Surrogacy

Some people require the assistance of a surrogate to create a family. Surrogacy is when a woman carries a child for someone unable to conceive or carry a child for themselves. Surrogacy has always been legal in the UK and the UK has regulated surrogacy since 1985 and it is therefore a well-established, if small, part of reproductive treatment carried out in fertility clinics.

The British Fertility Society (BFS), on behalf of its professional membership body, fully supports altruistic surrogacy in the UK as a legitimate form of family building, practised in line with the guidance provided by the DHSC . The BFS believes that the safety and health of the surrogate and child should always be the most important consideration in the provision of medical treatment.

The BFS recognises the value of consent, legal protections, and supportive healthcare practices that safeguard participants in surrogacy in the UK, resulting in arrangements that focus on transparency, fairness, and mutual respect, and believes that individuals' reproductive choices should be respected in this context.

The Law Commissions' proposed changes to current law should enable closer regulation and improve clarity for all parties involved in surrogacy arrangements in the UK, including measures to prevent commercialisation of surrogacy. The welfare of children born through surrogacy should be central to any reforms.

While unable to comment on individual international surrogacy arrangements and policies, the BFS strongly advocates that intended parents wishing to use surrogacy do so in the UK, where the interests of the surrogate and surrogate-born child are protected in law. It is the responsibility of UK clinics and healthcare professionals working within our fertility sector to work together with the regulator, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), to ensure the highest standards in surrogacy care, monitoring, training and education.

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https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/having-a-child-through-surrogacy/care-in-surrogacy-guidance-for-the-care-of-surrogates-and-intended-parents-in-surrogate-births-in-england-and-wales