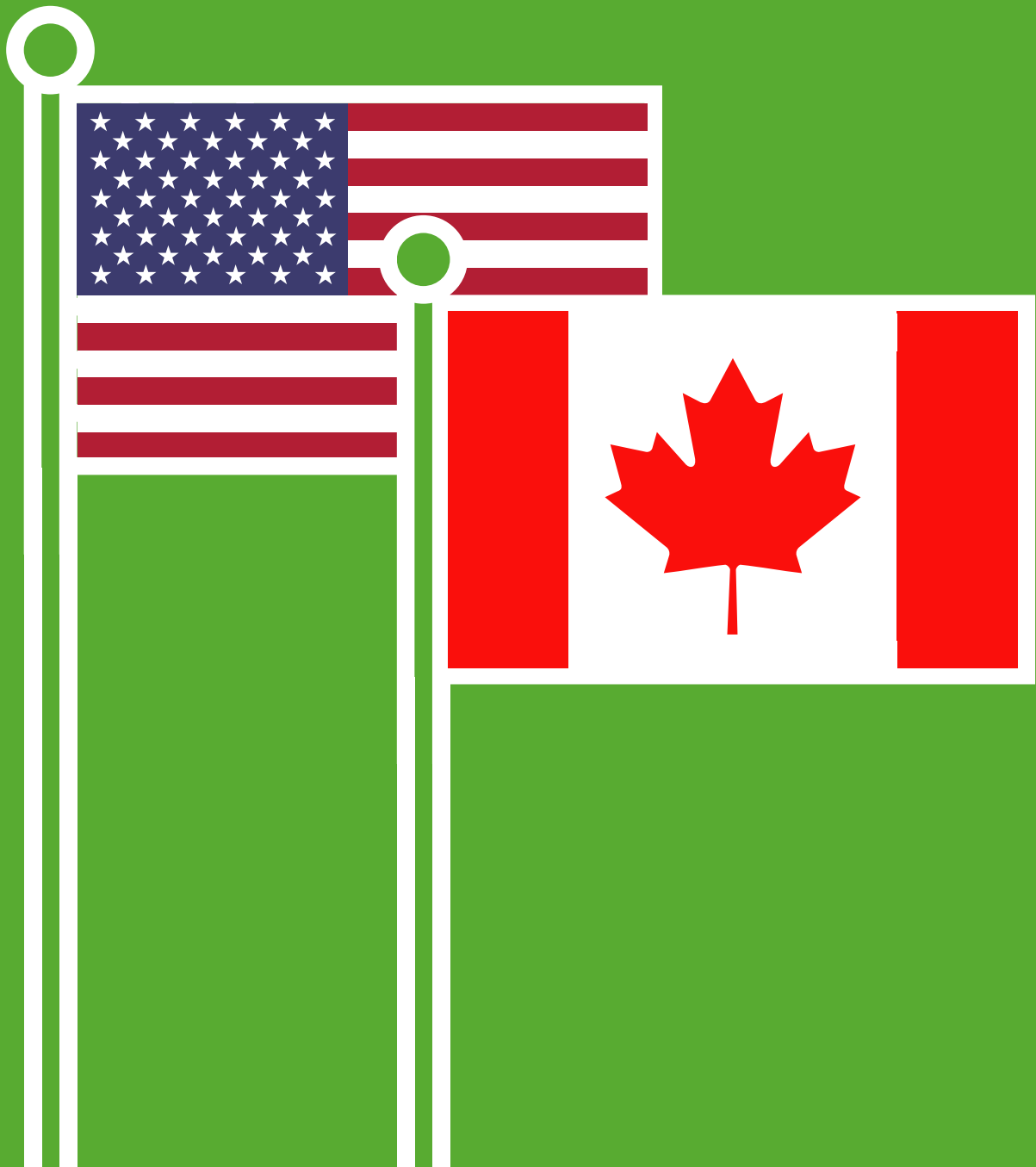


A Parent's guide to surrogacy in the USA and/or Canada

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Surrogacy and IVF comes in different shapes in North America. Most intended parents start by finding an IVF clinic where they can either use an Egg Donor or use their own eggs to create embryos. Once the embryos are made and frozen (technology has got to the point where there is minimal difference in success rates between the two) then the intended parents start looking for a surrogacy agency.

But how do you find an IVF clinic, I always suggest that two things are the most important: 1) you should look for success rates of both implantation and live-birth and 2) you should talk to the Drs to understand how the company operates.

Not every clinic is the same and some have in-house egg donors whilst intended parents may have to use an external egg donor agency with some other clinics. If you are looking for an egg donor through an external egg donor agency then they should have done a number of tests already to ensure that they are ready to proceed.

IVF is covered by both the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in the US and is also overseen by the American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM).

Surrogacy in the US is governed on a State-by-State level and is recognised on a Federal Level when your child is born. That means that your child born in the US is automatically entitled to US Citizenship. In the US, it is legal to pay your surrogate compensation and therefore a number of surrogacy agencies exist to be able to facilitate the surrogacy process. The US has a population of 327 million (2018) and therefore finding a surrogate can be done relatively quickly.

Surrogacy in Canada is governed on a Province-by-Province level and is also recognised on a Federal Level and your child is entitled to Canadian Citizenship at birth. In Canada it is illegal to pay your surrogate compensation but you are allowed to reimburse her expenses and thus there are far fewer agencies in Canada. Canada has a population of 37 million people (2018) and therefore finding a surrogate is a lot harder than in the US, which leads to a longer waiting time.

Surrogacy in both countries is available to heterosexual couples, same-sex couples and also single men and women. Surrogacy contracts in most of the US States are enforceable and the recognition of parenthood is done either by

a Pre-Birth Order or a Post-Birth Order. In Canada a Post-Birth Order gives recognition of parenthood.

As an advocate for intended parents, I'm neither a Lawyer nor a Doctor and therefore the above is neither legal nor medical advice, but I would be very happy to walk you through any of the topics in much more detail.

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