

Revy's Surrogacy Guide (for single men)

~~I am in the process of having kids through surrogacy. The surrogate is already pregnant, so I'll be a parent in a few months.~~ My kid is born. He's super adorable and fun to cuddle/hold. I'm planning to have at least 2 more.

For single men that don't want kids, they don't want kids. But for the ones that do want kids, here's a way to do it without any of the downsides of dating/marriage, and no risk of having the kids taken away and/or indoctrinated.

Email me (pathofrevy@proton.me) if you want to ask specific questions.

Technical Details of the Process	2
Logistics	2
The process, and basic terminology	2
Why better to do it in a foreign country	2
Egg Donor and Surrogate Dynamics / Legal safety (worries about egg donor or surrogate claiming child support)	3
Should you have a kid through surrogacy?	3
Money (if you're middle-class and can afford kids "normally", but just don't have a woman)	3
Money (if you're rich)	4
Do you want kids?	4
Thoughts on raising kids	5
Intentional twins (or triplets) for volume (multiple surrogacy journeys simultaneously)	5
Schooling and indoctrination	6
Pragmatic philosophy, ethics and public perception	6
Why the Artificial Womb already exists (and is available)	6
"A child deserves two parents"	6
"This is human trafficking / you're buying a human"	7
Acceptance of IVF+surrogacy (IVFS)	7
How to choose an agency and start the process (with AI handholding)	7
1) Choose a country.	7
2) Shortlist several agencies.	9
3) Contact each agency.	10
4) (Optional) Travel to the country and talk with the agency in-person, and get a tour of the clinic.	11
5) Choose an egg donor	11
6) Pull the trigger: Sign the contract and send the initial payment.	11
Prenatal Musings	11
Bypassing the demographic-economic paradox (i.e. higher income = less kids)	11
Reversing hypergamy	12
Commentary on mate selection:	12
Legal details on surrogacy in Mexico:	13
That requirement that the surrogate is single	13
General life as a rich foreigner raising a child	13
Ampare process	14
US consulate CRBA + Passport process (in Mexico)	14
Agencies to avoid (or be cautious around)	14

Technical Details of the Process

Logistics

Assuming you do international surrogacy, here are the logistics:

- \$65,000 for the whole process (as of 2025)
- Add an extra \$10,000 for travel expenses, some optional legal expenses, some optional medical expenses.
- The whole process takes about a year
- If anyone asks, you just took a one-week vacation, followed by a one-month vacation a year later.

The process, and basic terminology

- If you decide to do surrogacy, you are referred to as an “Intended Parent” or “IP”
- You pick an “Agency” -> this is a business that takes your money, and then manages all the details of the surrogacy process. They have a medical clinic that they work with, a roster of egg donors, and a roster of surrogates. They have in-house lawyers for basic things, but also have legal offices they prefer to work with if you want/need special legal services (eg. birth certificate with one name) although you have to pay them separately.
- Pick out an egg donor
 - At least for foreign countries, you're pretty much guaranteed 8s, 9s, and 10s, no matter the metric. I min-maxed on IQ+work ethic, so I found someone who was a 10 based on education / career and a 7 in looks. There's some 5s in there, but there's no reason to pick them obviously.
 - Including this comment since this is super-important to you white nationalist racist neo-nazis: Most large surrogacy agencies have a ton of European donors. Since they are typically located in large international cities, there's lots of immigrants and foreign students. Also white people tend to make up the majority of the upper-class in latin american countries, so even if they're nominally hispanic, they're ethnically white. You can also pick frozen eggs in the US or whatever country with frozen egg banks and then have them shipped in.
- Fly in to deposit semen. If anyone asks, you're just taking a 1-week vacation.
- Egg extraction, IVF, surrogate match, and implantation takes about 3 months. Followed by 9-month pregnancy. You don't actually have to do anything at this stage.
- If you want, you can pay a few thousand \$ extra to do a genetic test to make sure your kid doesn't have any super-messed up diseases. It also allows you to choose gender. I did this, and I went for a boy for my first child, because of the lower learning curve for parenting.
- Approaching 9 months, you go on a 1 to 2-month vacation to the country. Be there for the birth of your child, and handle legal paperwork (getting your child US citizenship, finalizing birth certificate) while raising your child. Fly back to the US 2 weeks later.

Why better to do it in a foreign country

Why you want to do it in a foreign country:

- US is \$150,000 (or more). If you're willing to do a little extra paperwork and travelling, you can save \$75,000. That's \$75,000 you can leave to your child.
- Surrogacy Agencies in the US just don't have their shit together (long waitlist for surrogates, surrogates aren't pre-screened). Mostly because of the supply-demand balance. In the US, there are more intended parents, so you get the waitlist, and less screening for surrogates. Overseas, there are more surrogates, so there is no waitlist, and surrogate screening and requirements are way higher.
- Surrogate is required to already have at least one child, as well as a husband. Partly to make sure she has a track record of giving birth successfully, partly because she loves the child she already has so it

reduces the probability she'll develop an attachment to your child. < Note that this is not a requirement for surrogates in the US (as a result of the supply-demand balance)

- Surrogates go through a ton of health screening - once when being accepted as a surrogate, and another after matching. < Note that surrogates in the US are only screened once they are matched (as a result of the supply-demand balance)
- Depending on the country, your kid gets an extra passport (they will get their passport from the foreign country through birth soil, and ALSO the US passport through inheritance). It will also significantly reduce your timeline to citizenship if you want to pursue it. Basically a reverse-anchor baby.
- Better healthcare. Most non-western countries have a parallel public healthcare and private healthcare system. The public system is shit obviously. The private healthcare system is as good or better than the US system, and even uninsured costs a fraction of the US insured co-pay.

If you are capable of working remotely, or you have parental leave, I would recommend staying in the foreign country longer to take advantage of cheap but high-quality private healthcare, and childcare. Maybe even indefinitely. At least for the first few months, it's not like you're gonna have time to work anyways.

For the specific country: at the moment of writing this, it's Columbia, Mexico, or Argentina. Previously, it was Ukraine, India, and Thailand. Expect the country to change depending on the political situation of the world. When one country bans it, another country legalizes it. But guaranteed, at least one country will allow it, just find that one country.

Egg Donor and Surrogate Dynamics / Legal safety (worries about egg donor or surrogate claiming child support)

All the egg donor knows is that they donated eggs.

- They are not told anything about you.
- They won't even know if the child exists. As in, they aren't told if their eggs resulted in children.

As for the surrogate

- **This is where IVF comes in: The child will have a genetic link to you, but not to the surrogate.** If the surrogate attempts to claim custody, a DNA test (included by default in most surrogacy services) shuts that down immediately.
- You are allowed to talk with them for whatever, but you don't have to. You also don't have to reveal anything about yourself if you want.
- All communication is facilitated by the Agency to ensure that neither of you does anything stupid. If she tries to threaten you, the Agency will just tell her "yeah, we're not going to pass your threat on".
- Surrogate mother's name will not be on the birth certificate. The result is a birth certificate with only one name (yours).
- After the child is born, you can cut the surrogate off completely if you want. Alternatively, if you want your child to know who gave birth to them, you can maintain communication. I recommend the latter,

Should you have a kid through surrogacy?

They're gonna drain a ton of money and time, whether you do it by surrogacy or traditional. Don't expect kids to make your life better. Kids are an end goal. Not a means to an end. They're basically the "default" self-actualization goal.

Money (if you're middle-class and can afford kids "normally", but just don't have a woman)

My own opinion is that the cost of surrogacy is very little. Obviously, \$75,000 is a lot of money by itself. However, write down how much money kids cost to raise normally, between additional costs, and the reduction in income from having to stay at home to take care of the kid.

- Direct costs of raising a child: \$300,000 (although obviously there are minimalist methods)
- College is ~\$200,000 (although obviously there are alternatives)
- Reduction in income from spending time at home - public school ~ \$200,000
- Reduction in income from spending time at home - homeschool ~ \$1,000,000

Assuming homeschool and saving for college, the total cost is \$1,500,000. So \$75,000 is basically nothing. So I think that, from a financial perspective, your decision to have a kid through surrogacy should be determined more by “can I afford a kid” rather than “can I afford surrogacy”. And although it’s expensive, people have always been able to afford kids - mostly because the cost is distributed over 18 years.

For this reason, I think that surrogacy only seems expensive because it is a lump-sum payment, rather than costs distributed over 18 years. If you want to compare the cost of a human life to some other things, \$75,000 is roughly the downpayment on a house, or a new car. Basically, surrogacy, just like buying a house or a new car or any large purchase, is an exercise in saving, not income.

If you think about it, if you want kids, you ALWAYS pay in some combination of hours/money. Whether that indirectly through providing for the stay-at-home wife, financially through child support, or hourly through being a single parent. The advantage of surrogacy isn’t to avoid child support, it’s to ensure that your time/money is being used to raise the child in the way that they should be raised.

Money (if you’re rich)

A lot of single men have succeeded financially. Minimal dating, no marriage, no kids, lots of savings. They've won the game, and they don't know what to do with the rest of their life.

In my opinion, I think these men should consider having a kid through surrogacy, as “something to do in life”. Fatherhood is basically that DLC that eats all your resources that you have laying around that you don't know what to do with after you've "beat the game". And surrogacy allows you to do it without marriage and risking corrupting the rest of your game file.

Do you want kids?

In my opinion, every man falls into one of the following categories:

- Want both wife and kids
- Want kids only
- Want wife only
- Want neither

If you say you don’t want kids, are you sure, or is it just sour grapes?

Here is a chart of what you should do in each situation (in my opinion):

Your situation	What to do	Comments
Don't want wife or kids	Chill	I feel like there's a lot of people who do want kids, but assumed that they'd need a wife in order to have kids, so they suppressed their desire to have kids. If you think you fall in this category, but still have a little desire to have kids, make sure it's not just a sour grapes thing.
Want wife, don't want kids	Waifu	Jungle princess doesn't work, because she's going to want kids.
Want kids, don't want wife	Surrogacy	This.

Want kids and wife, but as two separate desires	Surrogacy + Waifu/Jungle Princess	Even if you get a jungle princess, there's a chance the laws will change. Having kids through surrogacy ensures that she can't take (some of) the kids away from you.
Want "traditional" family	Jungle Princess	This is specifically if you want a "traditional" family, that is, you have a wife and kids together.

Thoughts on raising kids, also indoctrination

Intentional twins (or triplets) for volume (multiple surrogacy journeys simultaneously)

My logic is that if you want to have tons of kids, it's better to intentionally go for twins of the same gender, for the following reasons:

- Same needs (schooling, activities) at the same time -> better economy of scale
- Better economy of scale when hiring nannies
- Kids of the same age can entertain each other, leaving less work for the parent
- Kids of the same age, will have a stronger bond in future

The "real" downsides are all health-related.

- Ideally, you'd want to space the kids out 18 months to 2 years so the mother has time to recover.
- Twins cause greater strain on the mother's body
- Twins are more likely to be premature and have associated health problems

The financial downsides aren't really downsides if you think about it:

- It's harder to "hand-me-down" clothing and toys, however that's a minor expense considering that
 - You're probably making more efficient use of real-estate with twins, which is usually more expensive than "things"
 - There's also some economy of scale of having shared supplies, in that twins only require 1.5x the supplies, not 2x.
 - You're making savings in terms of extracurriculars and transportation since your kids have similar schedules
- It concentrates all the "newborn work" at the same time point, which would overwhelm a fixed number of caretakers (i.e. two parents or a single parent unable to hire a nanny). However, for people who are willing to hire nannies, it's actually cheaper to have twins.
 - Infants aren't that much work, it's just spread out to cause sleep deprivation. With a single child, you can only really justify having one nanny on staff (since you're a single parent, hiring one nanny basically makes it a two-parent household). With twins, it makes more sense to hire 24/7 care with multiple nannies working on shifts.
 - Another way of thinking about it is that: amortized, it's cheaper to hire nannies to staff twins once, than singlets twice.

To a single man using surrogacy, none of the health-related downsides apply, so doing two "surrogacy journeys" at the same time has no downsides whatsoever (and actually it saves on logistics, since you can get both children in one "vacation" saving airbnb costs and flight tickets, embassy appointments to get their passports, etc.) So I'm planning on having two kids at the same time next.

CLARIFICATION NOTE: In the context of surrogacy, "twins" usually means implanting two embryos at the same time into a single surrogate mother. This slightly increases the odds of a successful implantation (by only a few percent), and also significantly increases the chance of twins - which increases costs slightly, but is much more efficient in terms of per-child cost. I AM NOT REFERRING TO THIS PRACTICE. What I am suggesting is

to hire two surrogates at the same time, and implant them both at the same time, separately. You could even do the double-implantation practice on each surrogate, and hope for triplets or even quintuplets.

Schooling and indoctrination (grade school)

There's definitely hesitation to have kids if they will be indoctrinated and turned against you in the public school system. The public education system is probably better renamed as the public indoctrination system, since it is meant to indoctrinate, not education. Here I present ways to avoid having your child indoctrinated:

- Homeschool is the obvious option
- Public/private school either in foreign country (cheaper) or rural US.

I'm currently getting ready to default to homeschool unless my kids decide they want to do private school. At any rate, I don't need to worry about my kids being indoctrinated since I get to decide how they are schooled.

Also, your kid will have the choice between multiple countries to live and work in.

Schooling and indoctrination (college and university)

University is the primary way to indoctrinate people, arguably even more than grade school since children are away from their parents. However, it is often also the path to lucrative professional careers. Here I present ways to have your child educated, that in my opinion are superior to traditional college, and also avoid or minimize the indoctrination.

The associates degree -> bachelors pipeline: If you have an associates degree (which takes 2 years to get), that reduces your bachelor's degree by 2 years. This has the following advantages:

- Allows "beginning" your bachelor's early, since community college is generally easier admissions and classes compared to 4-year universities. Often homeschoolers graduate with their associates degree at the same time as others are graduating highschool, but it is common to go even faster if you're particularly high-achieving.
 - Additionally: since your child is still younger than 18, it makes sense that they should attend a local or even online community college, so they can continue living at home and enjoy life as a child (while earning the credentials of an adult). In addition to ensuring that your child still has an actual childhood, since they are still a minor at home it is easier as a parent to ensure they are not being indoctrinated by their community college courses.
- Reduces cost, since community college is generally cheaper than 4-year universities.
- Comes with a "bonus" associates degree, which can be used as a fallback in case the 4-year degree is unusable, or if the student is unable to gain the 4-year degree. Most trades have very good job security.
- Community colleges are significantly less indoctrination-prone than 4-year colleges - usually they are populated by adults just trying to get a job - they have no interest or time in politics. This technique halves the time they are in a 4-year institution.

If you want to go into a discipline without hands-on skills, online colleges (for associates or 4-year degree) as the following advantages:

- Continue to live at home
 - Especially if the child is homeschooled and "graduated" highschool early, then it makes even more sense for them to continue to be at home.
- Typically easier and cheaper than normal in-person colleges.
- You're not forced to attend classes like in normal colleges.
- More flexible schedule, also easier to overload (a great characteristic given the typically easier classes)
- People who attend online colleges are generally adults trying to get a degree to advance their career - they have no interest or time in politics.
- Without in-person classes or interaction, it's way harder to absorb the "culture" of the college. Your child can get their social interaction from other sources other than college, especially if they're still underage.

Night classes, while not as nice as online classes, allow earning a degree that requires minimal hands-on skills, while still providing the following benefits:

- Can work a normal job during the day.
- Classmates are generally adults trying to get a degree to advance their career - they have no interest or time in politics.

All of the above techniques have a single problem - they don't allow getting prestige. (This includes the community college technique - compared to overperforming highschoolers with AP credits, it's weirder to get admitted to prestigious colleges with low acceptance rates.) A 4-year degree is more than enough for 95% of people, but if the prestige associated with your degree is really important to you, then here are your options:

- Go into accounting and get a CPA: Accounting differs from most "standard" degrees in that your employment prospects are much less dictated by the prestige of the university from which you graduated, than by the fact that you simply have a CPA. Therefore, there are no downsides to the methods above.
- Just go "higher": Instead of going for more prestige, just get a "higher" education level. Most of the above options result in faster graduation, so you are ahead in your education compared to your peers, giving you the option to "spend" those extra years on even more education:
 - A Master's degree is the obvious step. Online of course. (PhD is also an option, but that requires much more time, so less bang-for-your-time.)
 - A JD (law school) boosts all degrees. Even though lawyers are less employable than they were in the past: 1) a JD is still the best of all "humanities" degrees. Even if you don't plan to become a lawyer, a JD is basically the best "general-purpose" degree - MBAs suck. 2) if you have a STEM degree, patent lawyers don't suffer from the horrible employment prospects of normal lawyers 3) if you have an accounting degree, tax law is crazy profitable.
- The graduate-school backdoor (engineering): If the prestige of the university is important to you, it's enough to get a prestigious name for graduate school, it doesn't necessarily have to be during undergrad. Here is the method:
 - After graduating with your bachelor's, you can work for a lab at a prestigious university as a "volunteer" research assistant. Since you're a volunteer, it's easier to get the job (although you still need to show competence in some way, probably through your personal projects. One flex is to read the lab's past papers and replicate their experiments).
 - Then you can apply for graduate school (either Master's or PhD) and request the backing of your professor at your lab, and guarantee admission. In this way, you can get the name of a prestigious university.

Pragmatic philosophy, ethics and public perception

Why the Artificial Womb already exists (and is available)

There's a lot of discussion among the manosphere about the artificial womb, and how it is coming soon, and all the changes that will come because of it. I would argue that we effectively already have the artificial womb. Let's think about what qualities this mythical "artificial womb" will have:

- It will allow men to have children without needing a wife
- The man will receive sole custody of the children, and there will be no risk of a divorce in which the man would lose custody/child-support/alimony
- The artificial womb will be extremely expensive (say, \$75,000 on the low end)
- The artificial womb will be banned in feminist-ruled countries, but several countries in the world will have the artificial womb, and men who want kids will travel to these countries as a form of medical tourism.
- Bonus: the man will be able to choose the matrimonial genetics

If you think about it, the combination of Egg Donor + IVF + Surrogacy provides all of the above. It's stupid to wait for an artificial womb, when something that achieves everything the artificial womb is supposed to achieve already exists. As an analogy, talking about the artificial womb is like complaining that you don't have a powered exoskeleton to move things around when you can buy a hand-dolly from your local hardware store for \$100.

Additionally, you have to consider that the surrogate itself is only ~\$20,000 of the cost. The remaining \$50,000 is logistics, legal, and IVF/medical support. In other words, even if the artificial womb is invented, you will still need to spend \$50,000 between IVF / legal / logistics on top of paying for and maintaining the artificial womb. (I imagine these legal and medical costs will go down as surrogacy becomes more popular.)

“A child deserves two parents”

Is it “moral” to raise a child as a single parent? I'm guaranteeing the child won't have a mother.

1. Having a kid through surrogacy gives your kid a 100% chance of being raised by a single dad. Children raised by single dads do basically just as well as children raised by two-parent households.
2. Marriages with children have a divorce rate of 40%. At which point, pretty much guaranteed the woman gets custody. In other words: Having a kid with a woman gives your kid a 60% chance of being raised in a two-parent household, and 40% chance of being raised by a single mom.

Therefore, if you do the statistics, a kid is statistically better off from a “which parents are raising the child” perspective than a kid born in a marriage.

Also reminder that the people who insist that “a child needs their mother” are the same people that cheer on high divorce rates and single moms.

“This is human trafficking / you're buying a human”

Okay do unpaid surrogacy then. Obviously, it's way harder to find an unpaid surrogate, and you should expect a massive waitlist. But it's still an option. If you think that providing for the woman who is carrying your child for 9 months does NOT deserve compensation...

Acceptance of IVF+surrogacy (IVFS)

My own prediction is that IVFS will become more accepted over time, as the children born through this method grow up to become adults. The reason is that criticizing any “alternative” (but successful) parenting method becomes more difficult when the children raised by that method grow up to be functioning adults.

This happened to children adopted by gay couples, it happened to children born through IVF (test-tube babies) and I believe it will soon happen to children born through IVFS.

How to choose an agency and start the process (with AI handholding)

1) Choose a country.

Things to consider:

- Overall price
 - Most non-first world countries have roughly the same price, you want to be there (as of time of writing, \$75,000 USD including travel logistics, and optional legal and medical procedures)
- Supply vs demand of surrogates, paid surrogacy must be allowed (and default)
 - Look for a country in which there are generally more surrogates than intended parents. This manifests in higher standards and pre-screening for surrogates, and no waitlists.
 - The above requirement can only really be met if surrogacy is compensated.

- How long has the country had surrogacy legal? What is the annual volume of surrogacy cases in that country (relative to the overall population of that country)? You should choose a country with a high volume of surrogacy cases for the following reason:
 - There is less legal risk. There are law firms dedicated to handling surrogacy cases, the legal method to do surrogacy is well known and commonly practiced. There are additional services such as methods to remove the gestational carrier from the birth certificate. The consulate is accustomed to processing citizenship requests for children born from surrogates, and they have the whole process set up already.
 - There are more a greater quantity of prominent and reputable surrogacy agencies to choose from, with longer track records.
 - “Periferal” services are easier to come by: pediatricians are used to handling children born from surrogate cases so they don’t think you’re weird, nanny services that cater explicitly to surrogate families.
- On a similar note, the country (and most agencies operating within that country) should allow surrogacy for single men (regardless of sexuality or nationality).
 - Usually single men are under the most scrutiny, either by feminists who don’t want straight men to have reproductive rights, and/or by traditionalists who are against gay men and non-traditional families in general.
 - Obviously this is important if you’re a single man. But even if you’re not, whether or not single men are allowed to do surrogacy is a measure of how truly accepting the country is of surrogacy, and the level of legal hurdles you’ll face.
- Citizenship:
 - Will your child get citizenship by birth? (The right to) an extra passport is always beneficial.
 - If so, how desirable is it to live in that country? Also, how powerful is that country’s passport? (Even if that country is weak: powerful countries fall, weak countries rise.)
 - Once your child gets citizenship by birth, if you would like to move to that country yourself, how difficult is the “reverse-anchor-baby” process? (most countries will reduce time-to-citizenship if you have immediate family members who are citizens).
 - This criteria is SUPREMELY IMPORTANT if your home country bans surrogacy, so your child doesn’t end up “stateless”. Additionally, do research on “adoption masking” i.e. hide the surrogacy and make it look like an adoption - “discrimination” grounds are your friend here.
- Race is not a consideration:
 - Large surrogacy agencies have egg donor databases with no shortage of international donors.
 - Worst case, just import frozen eggs or embryos of your desired race from another country.

Some commentary as of 2025: Keep in mind this information becomes outdated very quickly. However, it is included to give you an idea of things to consider.

- Canada: Surrogacy legal, but bad choice, primarily because of surrogate availability, but also cost
 - Surrogacy is altruistic only. This reduces the price to ~\$100,000 USD - still relatively expensive.
 - However, the real problem is the waiting lists, which are immense.
 - It is typically only used by Canadians who are somehow unwilling to do international travel.
- USA: Surrogacy legal, but bad choice, primarily because of cost, also surrogate availability to a lesser extent
 - The total cost is around \$150,000 USD, due to medical expenses, legal expenses, and surrogates all being significantly more expensive than other countries - by far the “premium” option.
 - Further, although surrogacy is paid, there is still a shortage of surrogates, so there are some waitlists and surrogates do not undergo much screening, and the standards for surrogates are low (surrogates who don’t have their own kids are allowed). Therefore, even if you have money, I don’t recommend this.
 - The US is a popular destination for extremely wealthy IPs who come from countries where surrogacy is illegal, often China and Europe. Also Canadian IPs that are willing to pay to reduce

the waitlist. However, I don't understand why the US is popular since other countries are better both in terms of waitlist and definitely price. Maybe because of US citizenship / passport?

- Obviously wealthy American IPs who are unwilling to do international travel. In my opinion, this is stupid for the above reasons. Especially because if you already have US citizenship, then your kid will get US citizenship by birth anyways.
- Various countries (many European countries): Surrogacy is “somewhat illegal” (as a home country for IPs)
 - You can still do surrogacy overseas, and then bring your kid back, although often with a bureaucratic delay.
 - Make sure you do surrogacy in a country in which 1) the child gets citizenship by birth to avoid the absolute worst-case scenario of statelessness 2) the passport of said country has visa-free access to your home country.
- Various countries (China, Japan, many European countries): Surrogacy is REALLY illegal (as a home country for IPs)
 - Make sure you do surrogacy in a country in which 1) the child gets citizenship by birth to avoid the absolute worst-case scenario of statelessness 2) the passport of said country has visa-free access to your home country 3) said country has legal processes that allow you to do “adoption masking”
 - Choose an agency that is known to be strong legally, or better yet, instead of directly looking for agencies, look for a law firm that can do “adoption masking” and then go with whatever agency that law firm recommends.
 - A cheap trick:
 - Pick an agency, say “Agency A”
 - Have Agency A recommend the law firm that is strongest in surrogacy cases, say “Law Firm B”
 - Contact Law Firm B, don't mention that Agency A recommended you. Ask Law Firm B which agency they recommend working with, which won't necessarily be Agency A.
 - Consider immigrating to another country. Perhaps the country you plan to do surrogacy in, using the child as a reverse-anchor baby. Since your home country doesn't want you to have kids.
- Ukraine:
 - It used to be a great choice for surrogacy. However, as of 2025, for obvious reasons, it is no longer. Included as an example of how you need to be flexible with which country to go to.
- Various countries: Altruistic for locals only, often for hetero married couples
 - Special note - India, Thailand, Nepal: Popular destinations in the past, but later banned for international / commercial / single IPs. Often due to highly publicized scandals, please don't do stupid stuff and add to this list.
 - Special note - Georgia: Legal now only for hetero married couples, rumors of ban on international IPs.
- Various countries: Grey zone - surrogacy performed, but without clear legal protections. Usually there are no laws that dictate how it works, and also no laws explicitly banning it.
 - Examples - Laos, Kenya, Ghana - I'm sure you can find some that are unusually cheap, and clearly some people do go to these countries, but it's not a risk I would take.
 - Special Note - Argentina: Popular surrogacy destination for a while, but recently there have been legal issues and it appears to have been less favored legally.
- Mexico, Colombia: Textbook choices
 - Great choices, very popular, legal for a long time with more favorable laws as time passes (due to LGBT), relatively cheap

A sample AI prompt to get you started, drop it into your favorite LLM:

I am a single man looking to have a child through IVF surrogacy. Please suggest an ordered shortlist of

countries to consider, based on the following criterion:

<copy-paste all the above points which matter to you, and perhaps additional points that matter to you>

2) Shortlist several agencies.

AI is easiest to start. Personally, I'd get a shortlist of at least 3 agencies from several AIs. Get more information from google search, reddit, FB groups. Things to consider:

- Volume
 - More reliability from experience, and also larger egg donor database
- Reputation
 - Success rates. 60–70% live birth per transfer in high-volume agencies is your primary metric here. Successful embryos per egg (frozen or fresh) is also important.
 - Overall reputation. Many agencies are known for not entirely honest practices.
 - Search for scandals (“X Surrogacy Agency Scandal”). Keep in mind that larger volume agencies will naturally have more incidents. Perhaps the response to mistakes is a more useful indicator than the mistakes themselves.
- Overall philosophy / style:
 - Most agencies are just “normal” full-service agencies. Priority here is customer service.
 - Some agencies are a “spin-off” of a law firm that specialize in surrogacy cases, including legal disputes. For these, you can expect a bulletproof legal process, and extra legal support. This is particularly important if surrogacy is illegal in your home country, and you want to minimize risks when you bring your kid back home - these law firms will probably be able to make it look like the kid is adopted and hide the surrogacy.
 - Some agencies are founded and run by doctors. Some agencies are a “spin-off” of ART clinics. For these, you can expect a more medical emphasis, and more transparency. Doctors have more power, and medical opinion is given priority over “customer service” - whereas a normal surrogacy agency will upsell you on various IVF techniques and do whatever the customer asks and pays for, these types of agencies will be more open and say “we can do it if you pay for it, but our doctors don't really want to do it”.
- More supply than demand of surrogates. If the below conditions are not met for any of the agencies, you might reconsider your choice of country.
 - No waitlist for surrogates
 - Surrogates are pre-screened before they are “accepted” into the surrogacy program (and again upon match), rather than screened upon match (faster surrogacy process, and fewer hiccups)
 - Higher standards and more screening for surrogates and better screening for the surrogacy, including the requirement to already have at least one of their own children.
- Price distribution: Avoid agencies in which the biggest payment is first / early.
 - Surprisingly, total price is not really a consideration. Most agencies (in the same country) charge roughly the same, although the cost is divided up into different payment structures. But it doesn't hurt to check.
 - However, the way the cost is divided IS important. Ideally, the agency should spread the cost over the course of the surrogacy journey, basically charging you as your surrogacy effort consumes various resources. The first payment should be relatively little, only covering egg donor compensation and IVF. The next should be surrogate matching and implantation. Then there should be payment to surrogate throughout the journey. Finally should be a final payment for birth and logistics.
 - Many agencies will have the biggest cost up-front, at contract signing. Think about the incentives here: If you “give up” and decide to switch agencies (say, upon repeated implantation failures), the first agency has already gotten most of the money. So you lose most of your money. But also the agency is less incentivized to provide quality service after you make your biggest payment.

A sample AI prompt to get you started, drop it into your favorite LLM:

I am a single man looking to have a child through IVF surrogacy in <COUNTRY>.
[Or if you couldn't narrow it down to one country: I am a single man looking to have a child through IVF surrogacy in <COUNTRY 1> or <COUNTRY 2 >]
Please suggest an ordered shortlist of agencies to consider, based on the following criterion:

<copy-paste all the above points which matter to you, and perhaps additional points that matter to you>

3) Contact each agency.

Most agencies offer a free consultation, it'll be a "contact us" form somewhere on their website. Even multiple consultations. Get as much information as you can. Call the first one again if you have more questions after talking to other agencies.

- How would it work for 2 journeys
- Ask for:
 - Any and all paperwork that explains their process, payment schedule, rules, requirements, additional services, etc.
 - A blank boilerplate legal contract that they will expect you to sign. Compared to their marketing material, this will have much more detail, and will also be more honest.
 - Access to their egg donor database.
- Of the below list of services, if they are important to you, ask if they are provided and how much they cost. However, make sure to ask AFTER the agency has given you the overview - good agencies should be up-front with these, and offer them with a price tag even before you ask.
 - Embryo glue
 - Pre-implantation genetic test (PGT)
 - HIV+ washing
 - NIPT (non-invasive prenatal testing, basically a DNA test you can do before the child is born) and/or post-birth DNA test
 - Birth certificate without gestational carrier's name
- If the below are important to you:
 - They can help you decide whether you want to do one or two embryo implantation
 - If you are allowed (and/or expected) to communicate with the surrogate
 - Surrogate screening requirements
 - Refund policy

4) (Optional) Travel to the country and talk with the agency in-person, and get a tour of the clinic.

Realistically, most of these agencies are just an office, so there should be no reason to visit. However,

- Sometimes you get information in-person that you can't get over the phone.
- It's also an opportunity to ask WAY more questions.
- Often, the agent you'd communicate with online or over the phone, and the person you'd agent to in-person will be different. In this case, if the agency is doing any kind of bait-and-switch information obscuring, there will be a discrepancy in the response between the two agents.
- Gets you familiar with the neighbourhood in a low-stress way, as well as the immigration/visa process, so you're more prepared when you go to pick up your kid. You can also take this opportunity to begin the citizenship process if that matters to you.

Just email them and tell them that you're taking a vacation on X date, and you would like to meet with them in-person.

Also if you need a step in between just contacting each agency, and pulling the trigger and signing the contract, this is an extra step.

5) Choose an egg donor

More agencies require you to choose an egg donor before signing the contract. On the surface, this seems inefficient because frozen eggs seem to have a bad track record of success, and fresh egg donors often back out. And when it comes time to choose a new egg donor, there will be new donors in the roster. So choosing an egg donor now most likely won't be your actual egg donor.

However, the benefit of choosing an egg donor is that it requires thinking and decision making, in the context of actually making a decision rather than just doing research. This serves as an extra action you can take before pulling the trigger and signing the contract.

Comment: You can ask the agency for extra information and they will usually provide it.

6) Pull the trigger: Sign the contract and send the initial payment.

No commentary after this. Just follow the agency's instructions.

Pronatal Musings

Bypassing the demographic-economic paradox (i.e. higher income = less kids)

Summary of the situation: Higher income people tend to have fewer kids.

Paying people to have kids only results in super-poor people having kids, making the problem even worse.

Really, this should be rephrased as "Higher education women tend to have fewer kids". Higher education results in higher income - but if you control for each variable, then education is the deciding factor, meaning women with worthless degrees have both low fertility intentions and low income. Additionally, higher education and income in women correlates with higher income and education in their husbands. However, if you control for the education level / income of the women, and only increase the income level of the men, those men have higher fertility intentions.

By eliminating the wife entirely, single men having kids through surrogacy are able to completely bypass the demographic-economic paradox. If anything, it's reversed since higher-income men can more easily afford surrogacy (and additional help during the younger years).

In addition to eliminating the risk of divorce, surrogacy also eliminates the risk of marrying a woman who changes her mind on how many kids she wants.

Reversing hypergamy

Normally, women are only attracted to the "most desirable men". Historically when polygamy was allowed, the result was that most men did not reproduce, and the elimination of most of these men from the gene pool drove evolution.

In the case of a high-income egalitarian society, where IVFS is broadly accepted:

- Women are highly educated and therefore usually want no or very few kids.
- By contrast, (a single) surrogacy is affordable by most men. Even for "middle-class" men, the cost of surrogacy is approximately the cost of a new car - expensive but extremely doable considering that it's basically a "life purchase".
- Men can basically choose whatever egg donor from a long list of egg donors. Obviously they'll choose "the most desirable women"

The result is that the following people will move forward in the gene pool:

- Uneducated women
- Men who marry uneducated women (most likely either through traditionalism or passport-bro-ing)
- Middle-class men and above, with higher income resulting in more kids
- Extreme top 1% women who are selected as egg donors will have a ton of genetic offspring

Basically, it puts a separate evolutionary group in which evolution is driven primarily by the selection of a small quantity of egg donors by men, rather than the selection of a small quantity of polygamous men by women.

Commentary on mate selection:

Surrogacy also eliminates the “outdated” male mate selection criteria of physical strength and height, replacing it with a combination of:

- Income
- Openness to do unconventional things / disregard of societal norms
- Willingness to travel internationally to accomplish goals

I'm not sure how much effect it has on the female mate selection criteria. Personally, my criteria for egg donor was:

- Primarily: Occupation as an analog to min-maxed on IQ and work ethic
- Secondly: Desire to have kids (maybe the desire to have kids is genetic?) -> by default the egg donor is ... well, an egg donor. But also some egg donors want to have kids in the future, and some don't, and this was also a consideration.
- Secondly: Height and physical attractiveness in case my male heirs wanted to attract mates the conventional way (because of modern dating dynamics, the ability of women to find a mate is based more on age-based proactiveness and objective understanding of dating dynamics than actual attractiveness)

But I'm pretty sure other intended parents min-maxed on the physical attractiveness of the egg donor...

Appendix (don't read this)

Below is an infodump based on my own experience, with information that isn't immediately available if you do research normally. You should NOT read it for the following reasons:

1. It is not the best resource for general surrogacy advice.
 - a. The purpose of this document is to convince single men who previously discounted children due to their bachelor status to have kids through surrogacy. As such, it presents an overview of surrogacy from the viewpoint of a pronatalist / red-pill perspective, with as much emphasis on the philosophical and political elements as on the practical elements.
 - b. However, if you want advice on surrogacy in general, there are other people who have more experience than I do for both themselves and others. I (revy) am one person, who (so far) only did surrogacy once. You should search the internet for more knowledgeable people.
2. It is country-specific.
 - a. The thing I love about international surrogacy is that it is impossible to ban it everywhere. Even if it is banned in one country, another country will legalize it. It's just a matter of figuring out which country has it legal at any particular time. Therefore I was trying to keep the document high-quality and non-country specific so that it would be long-term resistant to the banning of international surrogacy in some countries and legalizing in others.
 - b. Below is a country-specific infodump. It applies to Mexico as of the year 2025, and therefore 1) will soon be outdated, and 2) only applies to Mexico. Do your own research, and pick the country that makes the most sense in the year that you're planning on doing your surrogacy journey. If you want handholding, the section on "[How to choose an Agency](#)" has AI prompts that will generate a list of countries and then agencies that will be best for you.

Legal details on surrogacy in Mexico:

That requirement that the surrogate is single

According to Mexican law, for a woman to be a surrogate, she cannot be married. I never understood this requirement.

At any rate, it's not a problem: the surrogate just divorces her husband and reverts the relationship to "boyfriend/girlfriend" and then they get remarried after the surrogacy is over. I imagine part of the compensation goes to cover these divorce / marriage costs.

Also, think about the conditions - the surrogate already has a child, and she's also required to be relatively young, meaning that child isn't particularly old, meaning it's highly unlikely she's gotten divorced for real between when that child was born and now. So most surrogates are indeed married, just not legally. Also, most IPs prefer surrogates that are "married" so they have someone else to take care of them at home, and agencies are aware of this and so will prefer surrogates that are "married".

In my case, I met my surrogate's "family" and they were in a very happy relationship, and they were very proud of their children.

General life as a rich foreigner raising a child

(I imagine this applies to most internal surrogacy countries)

- Raising a newborn as one person is hell. Raising a newborn as a team of 3 or more, taking turns, is pretty enjoyable. Nannies are cheap in Mexico.

- Go with the pediatrician recommended by the agency: Generally speaking, you can divide medical services into two tiers: a “normal family” tier in which doctors try to save money for their patients, and a “rich family” tier in which doctors do extra things. The biggest difference is preventative maintenance checkups: normal people don’t go to the doctor unless there’s an active problem, rich people like to have regular checkups or “tamiz” because they can afford it, including specialists. Even if you don’t think you’re wealthy, you’re still disgustingly rich by local standards. The extra “tamiz” are super-cheap for you. This means you want to a “rich family” pediatrician - if you go to a normal pediatrician, they don’t schedule preventative checkups. The easiest way to find a “rich family” pediatrician is to use whichever pediatrician the agency recommends.

Ampare process

Mexico has a legal process called “Ampare” that allows you to remove the surrogate mother’s name from the birth certificate, and optionally add a second name. This:

- Ensures you have 100% custody
- Makes all future legal processes easier
- Costs ~\$7000 USD and takes 2 months

Depending on the Agency, they might not tell you about the Ampare process, and trick you into thinking you’ll get a birth certificate with only your name on it while not spending any extra money or time. Basically they trick you into underestimating the cost and time. On that note, a good way of determining if the agency is honest is asking about how the birth certificate will look, without explicitly mentioning that you know about the “Ampare” process, and seeing if they tell you about the extra cost and time.

US consulate CRBA + Passport process (in Mexico)

From the side of the consulate, I was expecting that I would be considered a weirdo and questioned extra by the officials - it turns out the embassy was totally used to surrogate and “Assistive Reproductive Technology” cases and they had a whole system for handling things. There was even a special checkbox for “ART” when you’re booking your CRBA appointment.

The US consulate in Mexico has their own system to fill out and pay for both the CRBA and passport application digitally. Don’t just download a random CRBA and passport application you found on the internet as if you were in the US.

When you go to request the passport (which you can do during the same time as the CRBA), you can request an “emergency passport” which you will get the same day, but only lasts 1 year (as opposed to 5) - this is useful if you want to go home immediately. It’s a bit confusing because there’s no explicit option to request an “emergency passport” only “expedited service”, but you will be offered it (for free) when you show up at the embassy. Make sure to request book only.

Agencies to avoid (or be cautious around)

Note: Do NOT read the below. This is just my own research as one person. You’re better off doing your own research by searching “<NAME> Surrogacy Agency criticisms”.

- Sensible Surrogacy:
 - Sensible Surrogacy calls itself an agency and pretends it’s an agency, but they’re not. They basically send IPs to real agencies and then add a \$6,000 USD “consulting fee”. If they called it a “referral fee” I’d be happy to pay it, but because it’s misrepresented as a “consulting fee” imo it gives you both the legal and moral right to not pay it if you don’t go to Sensible Surrogacy for consulting.
 - I would say that a good way of identifying an agency would be to go to sensible surrogacy, and finding the agency with prices exactly \$6000 cheaper than sensible surrogacy (such as Miracle

Surrogacy below) ... but there's a risk that those agencies are not fully legit themselves since they're willing to overlook Sensible Surrogacy's operation.

- However, Sensible Surrogacy is a good way to create a shortlist of which countries are friendly to international surrogacy.
- New Life:
 - They are fairly good but their frozen eggs suck. As long as you are doing a fresh IVF cycle most people have good results with them. There's a Facebook group of people who use them and most people had a good experience as long as you are using one of their donors and doing a fresh egg IVF cycle as opposed to frozen eggs. Everyone who used frozen eggs had horrible results.
 - Meanwhile, the agency will just lie to you and say the frozen eggs are fine.
- Miracle Surrogacy:
 - Miracle is a huge agency, and if your case has no problems it has no problems. However, it seems like Miracle has an accountability problem.
 - There was this whole "Emma Incident". You can read it in more detail below. Basically: The surrogate violated the contract and had sex and conceived her own child with her partner. There were signs during the pregnancy but instead of investigating and minimizing losses, Miracle chose to convince the IPs that nothing was wrong in an attempt to suppress the problem, while completing the entire process so that it'd be too late to reverse anything. Especially pay attention to Miracle's own messages, they just make themselves look worse.
 - <https://www.reddit.com/r/SurrogacyNightmare/>
 - https://www.reddit.com/r/SurrogacyinMexicoMS/comments/1i97jgz/miracle_surrogacy_and_justice_for_emma_what_wasnt/
 - Many other incidents, and overall their reputation isn't the best:
 - <https://www.reddit.com/r/gaydads/comments/1ge5k2m/comment/mg2k26c/>
 - They give a lot of incorrect information. Perhaps it was just a handful of uninformed employees, but most of these lies or omissions seem to be in favor of pushing intended parents forward with the process (eg. all their "incorrect" prices are either omitted or underestimated) so intentionally cannot be ruled out.
 - They overcharge for all "optional" services.