

GNK Academy

The First Stop on Your Journey to Fatherhood™

Gay Surrogacy & IVF 101



Table of Contents

- page 3 — **What is surrogacy?**
- page 3 — **How does it work?**
- page 4 — **How much does surrogacy cost?**
- page 4 — **How long does a surrogacy journey take?**
- page 5 — **What organizations or professionals should
I expect to work with on my surrogacy journey?**
- page 6 — **How can I get started?**

Gay Surrogacy & IVF

We created this document to provide you with an introduction to surrogacy & IVF.

What is surrogacy?

Surrogacy is a path to fatherhood that allows gay and queer men to become biological parents.

How does it work?

The first step in the process involves creating embryos using the DNA specimen (sperm) of one or two dads-to-be along with the eggs of a young and healthy woman (known as the egg donor). The most viable embryo is then transferred to the uterus of a second woman (known as the gestational surrogate) who will carry and deliver the baby.

This process is called “In vitro fertilization” or “IVF,” and in this way, the dad (or perhaps both dads, if the DNA from both intended parents is used to create two embryos for a twin journey) will have a biological connection to the baby, but the surrogate will not.



**Eggs are retrieved
from the donor**



**Embryos are
created with your
sperm sample**



**Healthy embryo(s)
are transferred to a
gestational carrier**

How much does surrogacy cost?

Currently, we suggest folks embarking on a surrogacy journey anticipate spending somewhere between \$140,000 and \$220,000. We recognize that this is a wide gap, but there are many variables involved in a surrogacy journey and some we have control over and others we do not. It is hard to predict the total cost of your specific journey up front, but there are ways to keep your overall expenses down and make the journey more affordable.

How long does a surrogacy journey take?

The average time for most men to complete a surrogacy journey is two years; however, your journey may be shortened or take longer, depending on your unique circumstances.



18 – 24 months



\$140,000 – \$220,000

What organizations or professionals should I expect to work with on my surrogacy journey?

You have likely heard the expression, “It takes a village to raise a child.” At GWK we like to say that for gay and queer men it also takes a village to *have* a child! Typically, those pursuing surrogacy & IVF will work with an **IVF doctor and clinic**, a **surrogacy agency**, and an **egg donor agency** (though you may also find your egg donor through your IVF clinic and/or surrogacy agency). You’ll also consult with a **mental health provider**, **legal counsel** and **insurance provider**.



IVF Clinic / Doctor



Surrogacy Agency



Egg Donor Agency



**Mental Health
Experts**



Legal Counsel



Insurance Provider

How do I get started?

This is exactly why Gays With Kids created **GWK Academy**: To become the very first stop on any gay or queer man's journey to fatherhood. Our goal is to educate you on everything you need to know about your surrogacy & IVF journey BEFORE you get started and to support you along your entire journey. This way you can feel confident about every decision you'll need to make along the way. We do this through a series of in-depth lessons and videos that you can go through at your own pace, and we connect you with gay dad mentors as well as vetted family-building partners who provide discounts to GWK Academy enrollees.

How can I access GWK Academy?

Download our free app in your favorite app store or visit [GWKAcademy.com](https://www.gwkacademy.com)

GWK Academy combines these 4 features



**Comprehensive
Surrogacy & IVF
Courses for
Gay Men**



**On-Demand
Coaching**



Gay Dad Mentors



**Exclusive Network
of Family-Building
Partners**