

The Hospital Experience in Domestic Adoption & Surrogacy



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What does the “hospital experience” actually mean?

- Being a part of the actual birth moment.
- Meeting your child for the first time.
- Bonding with your child while at the hospital.
- Obtaining medical information about your child.
- A place to deal with practical matters (legal, health insurance, ICPC, etc.)
- The difference between a domestic adoption and a gestational carrier arrangement.

Before the birth...

- Notify the hospital well in advance of the due date.
- Who will make the initial notification?
- Who do you contact at the hospital?
- What is the birth plan for the birth mother or the gestational carrier?
- It is important that all of the parties talk to each other about their expectations before the birth of the child.
- Touring the hospital together.

The hospitals' policies, if any...

- Does the hospital have a written policy and do they use their own forms?
- What is the hospital's policy on access to the baby?
- What is the hospital's policy on banding? How many and who gets one?
- Security on the maternity ward is always a big deal.
- Will the hospital provide an extra room? Is there a charge?
- What is the hospital's policy on the discharge of the child?

What are the wishes of the birth mother or gestational carrier?

- Who will be in the delivery room?
- Having contact with the child, the adoptive parents or the intended parents?
- Who will hold the child immediately upon birth?
- Where will the birth mother or gestational carrier room following birth? Off of the maternity floor?
- Does the birth mother want hospital photos of the child?

How will I get medical information about my child?

- The birth mother will have to sign a HIPPA compliant medical release?
- The gestational carrier may have to sign such a release or a medical power of attorney.
- The hospital may have its own forms.
- Such release forms may be able to be signed pre-birth.

Legal, ICPC, health insurance and other practical matters.

- The birth parents will most likely sign a consent to adoption, or relinquishment of parental rights, at the hospital.
- Very important to carefully comply with the applicable state law.
- Who will meet with the birth parents? What is the setting? Do you need to have a notary present?
- Providing health insurance information to the hospital billing office.
- Obtaining medical records for the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.

What about the child's birth certificate?

- Birth certificates are not issued by hospitals. They are issued by the vital records office of the state where the child was born.
- Birth certificates are issued well after the child is born.
- In an adoption, the birth mother will complete a birth registration form at the hospital.
- In the case of a gestational carrier, the names of the intended parents may be placed on the registration form. It depends on the state.
- What name will be on the initial birth certificate?
- How is it finally amended?

How will the baby be discharged from the hospital?

- Who will the hospital directly discharge the baby to?
- To the adoptive parents? Do they need a court order?
- To only the birth mother? Will they leave as a group?
- To the gestational carrier?
- To the intended parents? Will they need a court order?
- What does state law say about the placement of a child for adoption? Is court approval required?

What could possibly go wrong...

- Flexibility is the key to having a stress free and meaningful experience.
- Sometimes, babies are born on the weekend and the best made plans run adrift.

Adoption is when a child grew in its mommy's heart instead of her tummy.

(Anonymous)

Questions?

Please enter your questions for Peter Wiernicki in the box to your right.



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