



2022 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Bill 137

Introduced by: **Senator Brock Greenfield**

1 **An Act to establish gestational surrogacy arrangements and agreements.**

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

3 **Section 1. That a NEW SECTION be added to title 25:**

4 Terms used in this chapter mean:

5 (1) "Assisted reproduction," the use of medical techniques performed by a licensed
6 provider to bring about pregnancy by means other than sexual intercourse;

7 (2) "Child," an individual or individuals born pursuant to assisted reproduction whose
8 parentage may be determined under this chapter or other applicable law;

9 (3) "Embryo," a fertilized egg up to fourteen days post-fertilization;

10 (4) "Embryo transfer," all medical and laboratory procedures that are necessary for
11 the transfer of an embryo into the uterine cavity;

12 (5) "Gamete donor," an individual who provides one or more human eggs or sperm for
13 use in assisted reproduction;

14 (6) "Gestational surrogacy arrangement," the process by which a woman who is not
15 the intended parent attempts to carry and give birth to a child created through in-
16 vitro fertilization;

17 (7) "Gestational carrier agreement," a written agreement regarding a gestational
18 surrogacy arrangement between an intended parent and a gestational carrier as
19 provided in this chapter;

20 (8) "Gestational carrier," a woman who is not an intended parent and who agrees
21 under a gestational carrier agreement to become pregnant through assisted
22 reproduction using an embryo that is not her own;

23 (9) "Intended parent," an individual who manifests an intent to be legally bound as a
24 parent through a gestational carrier arrangement;

1 (10) "Medical evaluation," an analysis by a provider who consults the recommended
2 guidelines published and in effect at the time of the analysis by the American
3 Society for Reproductive Medicine;

4 (11) "Mental evaluation," an analysis by a licensed mental health professional who
5 consults the recommended guidelines published and in effect at the time of the
6 analysis by the American Society of Reproductive Medicine;

7 (12) "Provider," a health care professional who:

8 (a) Is a physician licensed, certified, or registered by the state;

9 (b) Practices in a medical facility licensed by the state; and

10 (c) Is board certified or board eligible in reproductive endocrinology and
11 infertility.

12 **Section 2. That a NEW SECTION be added to title 25:**

13 A woman is eligible to serve as a gestational carrier if, at the time the gestational
14 carrier agreement is executed, the woman:

15 (1) Is a United States citizen or legal resident of the United States;

16 (2) Is at least 21 years old;

17 (3) Has completed a medical evaluation relating to the anticipated gestational
18 surrogacy arrangement by a provider;

19 (4) Has completed a mental health evaluation relating to the anticipated gestational
20 surrogacy arrangement, by a licensed mental health professional;

21 (5) Is represented throughout the surrogacy arrangement by independent legal
22 counsel of the woman's choice who is licensed to practice law in this state and who
23 advises the woman regarding the terms of the gestational carrier agreement; and

24 (6) Is not on any form of public assistance provided under the laws of this state.

25 **Section 3. That a NEW SECTION be added to title 25:**

26 To be eligible to participate in a gestational surrogacy arrangement and execute a
27 gestational carrier agreement, an intended parent must:

28 (1) Be at least 21 years of age;

29 (2) Have completed a mental health evaluation relating to the anticipated gestational
30 surrogacy arrangement;

31 (3) Have completed a medical evaluation relating to the anticipated gestational
32 surrogacy arrangement; and

1 (4) Be represented throughout the surrogacy arrangement by independent legal
2 counsel of the intended parent's choice who is licensed to practice law in this state
3 and who advises the intended parent regarding the terms of the gestational carrier
4 agreement.

5 **Section 4. That a NEW SECTION be added to title 25:**

6 A gestational carrier agreement is not valid unless:

7 (1) At least one party is a resident of this state or the birth is planned to occur in this
8 state;

9 (2) The gestational carrier and intended parent meet the requirements of this chapter;

10 (3) The agreement is:

11 (a) In writing;

12 (b) Executed prior to the commencement of any medical procedures related to
13 the surrogacy arrangement, other than medical or mental health
14 evaluations necessary to determine eligibility of the parties under sections
15 2 and 3 of this Act;

16 (c) Signed by the intended parent, the gestational carrier, and the gestational
17 carrier's partner, if any; and

18 (d) Notarized or witnessed by two disinterested competent adults;

19 (4) The agreement provides:

20 (a) The express agreement of the gestational carrier to undergo embryo
21 transfer, attempt to carry and give birth to the child, and surrender custody
22 of all resulting children to the intended parents upon the birth of the child;

23 (b) The express agreement of the intended parent to accept exclusive custody
24 of the resulting child upon the child's birth regardless of the sex or mental
25 or physical condition of the child, or the number of children, if applicable,
26 and to assume sole responsibility for the support of the child immediately
27 upon the birth of the child;

28 (c) How an intended parent will cover the medical expenses and other expenses
29 related to the pregnancy of the gestational carrier and the medical expenses
30 of the child;

31 (d) The express acknowledgement and agreement of the gestational carrier's
32 partner, if applicable, to be jointly bound by the obligations imposed on the
33 gestational carrier pursuant to the gestational carrier agreement;

1 (e) That a right created under a surrogacy agreement is not assignable and
2 there is no third-party beneficiary of the agreement other than the child;
3 and

4 (f) That the intended parent and the gestational carrier will consult with a
5 medical provider regarding the pregnancy and care of the child.

6 **Section 5. That a NEW SECTION be added to title 25:**

7 The following occurrences do not affect the validity of a gestational carrier
8 agreement:

9 (1) The marriage, legal separation, or divorce of a gestational carrier after the
10 agreement is signed by all parties. The carrier's spouse's consent to the agreement
11 is not required, and her spouse is not a presumed parent of a child conceived by
12 assisted reproduction under the agreement;

13 (2) The marriage of an intended parent after the agreement is signed by all parties.
14 The new spouse's consent to the agreement is not required, and the spouse is not
15 a presumed parent of a child conceived by assisted reproduction under the
16 agreement; or

17 (3) The death, legal separation, or divorce of an intended parent after the agreement
18 is signed by all parties. The intended parent is the parent of the child;

19 Any party to the gestational carrier agreement may terminate the agreement at
20 any time prior to implantation of the embryo for any reason or no reason. If a transfer
21 does not result in a pregnancy, any party may terminate the agreement at any time prior
22 to a subsequent embryo transfer.

23 **Section 6. That a NEW SECTION be added to title 25:**

24 Upon the birth of a child, the following rights of parentage vest under a gestational
25 surrogacy arrangement pursuant to this chapter:

26 (1) An intended parent is the parent of the child for purposes of state law;

27 (2) The child is considered the child of the intended parent for purposes of state law;

28 (3) Parental rights vest in the intended parent; and

29 (4) Sole custody, care, and control of the child rest solely with the intended parent.

30 Neither the gestational carrier nor spouse or partner of the gestational carrier, if
31 any, is the parent of the child for purposes of state law unless a genetic test proves the
32 child is the biological child of the gestational carrier.

1 **Section 7. That a NEW SECTION be added to title 25:**

2 A court shall enter an order of parentage if it finds the order is in the best interest
3 of the child, prior to the birth of a child. The orders of parentage immediately vest parental
4 rights and duties in the intended parent. The order must designate the content of the birth
5 record in accordance with section 6 of this Act and direct the South Dakota Department
6 of Health to designate each intended parent as the parent of the child.

7 A judgment establishing the intended parent's exclusive legal parentage may be
8 established before birth. The judgment has the same effect and is subject to the same
9 procedures, defenses, and proceedings as any other civil judgment.

10 The petition to establish parentage must state that the parties entered into a valid
11 gestational carrier agreement and a pregnancy or birth has resulted.

12 **Section 8. That a NEW SECTION be added to title 25:**

13 A person who is considered the parent of a child under this chapter is obligated to
14 support the child. A breach of the gestational carrier agreement by an intended parent
15 does not relieve the intended parent of the support obligation imposed by sections 4 and
16 6 of this Act.

17 **Section 9. That a NEW SECTION be added to title 25:**

18 A gamete donor is not a legal parent if the donor:

19 (1) Has waived any and all rights to the donated gametes and any resultant embryos
20 or children, in a written record; and

21 (2) The donation occurs via medical assisted reproduction.

22 **Section 10. That a NEW SECTION be added to title 25:**

23 This Act is effective July 1, 2022, and applies to agreements entered into on or
24 after that date.