



iParenting Family News

Some Military Wives Turning to Surrogacy

With soldiers and husbands in tours of duty, military wives are finding their own, unique ways to give back and support their families. Surrogacy – a nationally growing trend among this "sister society" – is viewed as a way to help infertile couples and aspiring parents start their families, while earning extra income and security for their own. For many military wives, the process of surrogacy provides a positive focus, while they anxiously await their husbands' return.

Considered by some as a controversial family-building choice, surrogacy has been embraced and criticized in the United States, with Illinois being one of only four states in the past five years to legalize the process. With an estimated 1,000 surrogate births in the United States last year alone, it has been reported that there has been a significant increase in military wives becoming surrogates since the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Nancy Block, surrogacy expert from the Center for Egg Options Illinois, reiterates that for military mothers who want the option of staying home with their families full-time, or to supplement income while their husbands are away, surrogacy is a great option that aligns with their values. "Military wives are strong and passionate supporters of our country, and at the same time, very open-minded to helping others in more unconventional ways," she says. "For these reasons, surrogacy is a perfect fit for some."

Relevant Surrogacy Information:

- There are 12 states in the U.S., including New York, New Jersey and Michigan, that refuse to recognize surrogacy contracts.
- In the past five years Texas, Illinois, Utah and Florida have passed laws legalizing surrogacy.
- More than a dozen states, including California, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, specifically legalize and regulate surrogacy.
- According to *Newsweek*, several agencies reported a significant increase in the number of wives of soldiers and naval personnel applying to be surrogates since the invasion of Iraq in 2003.
- Surrogate compensation starts at \$25,000 in most states.
- The cost to intended parents, including medical and legal bills, runs from \$40,000 to \$120,000.