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Hello Madame Chair and Commission members

My name is Krystal Lemcke and I am the owner of My Donor Connection. My Donor Connection is a full service Egg Donor and Surrogacy agency located in Anoka, MN.

My goal is to provide you with some insight to my business practice as an agency owner. I've provided several documents for your review. Their purpose is to help you understand the preventative measures we take to ensure the Surrogate is properly advised and informed throughout this process.

In those documents, you will find the application for a Gestational Surrogate, the application for an Intended Parent and an informational handout that I provide to potential surrogates.

An agency is involved in almost every aspect of the Surrogacy journey. There are two key roles in my duties, that if done correctly, should pave the way for a smooth journey for all parties involved: the screening and matching of participants.

The screening process is extensive. When a surrogate wishes to be part of our program, we first confirm they meet the minimum requirements before inviting them to complete the full application.

- They must be a US citizen
- They cannot be on any form of government assistance
- They've had a healthy pregnancy that delivered full term without complications.
- They cannot have a history of drug use or alcohol abuse
- They are willing to abstain from drugs, alcohol and nicotine throughout the medical process and pregnancy
- They are between the ages of 21-40
- They are physically and mentally healthy- with no history of depression or anxiety
- They are able to pass a background check (as well as their partner/spouse)
- They must have the support of their family

These are the minimum requirements. Only applicants who meet this criteria are invited to complete a full application. Once the application has been submitted, we schedule an interview with the surrogate candidate so that we can get to know her better. We go over the process, answer questions, address any concerns we may have about her profile, and discuss her views of surrogacy. We want to understand why she is considering surrogacy, what type of couples she would like to work with, what type

of relationship she would like to have with the intended parent(s) and what type of support system she has going into this process.

After the interview, if we believe that the applicant may be a good fit for a surrogacy journey, we then proceed the following:

- Obtaining Medical Records
- Insurance Policies
- Psychological Evaluations
- Background checks

This year- only 6% of applicants have made it through this initial process.

This is completed prior to the intended parents reviewing her profile. Once we have confirmation from the medical professional & licensed psychologist to proceed, we would then present her profile to intended parent(s) that have the same philosophies about the pregnancy.

The other application in front of you is for the intended parents. We gather information on their relationship, employment, reason for pursuing surrogacy, personality and physical health. The profile of the Surrogate is shared with an Intended Parent ONLY if I feel they are compatible. If the parent feel she is a strong match, I would then share the parent profile with the Surrogate to see if she feels the same. The Surrogate always has a choice when it comes to selecting what parents she will work with.

Once a match is confirmed, the legal agreement is drafted between the Surrogate and Intended Parents. The Surrogate is provided separate representation by an industry professional.

We know that not every cycle goes smoothly. It is my opinion that the majority of the issues that we see in the media could have been avoided if proper screening and matching procedures were followed.