

HOW DO THE CHILDREN OF SURROGATES EXPERIENCE THE PROCESS OF THEIR MOTHER HANDING OVER THE BABY TO THE INTENDED PARENTS?

CONTEXT

Surrogacy has been studied extensively, but little is known about **the children who witness their mother's surrogacy**.

That's why our research team wanted to know more about the **perceptions** and **experiences** of these children.

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY

The results show that the majority of young people were **prepared** for the fact that the child conceived through surrogacy would not live with them.

Their **reactions** to the surrogacy **varied**. Many were **overjoyed**, especially about the surrogacy process and the bonds formed between the families.

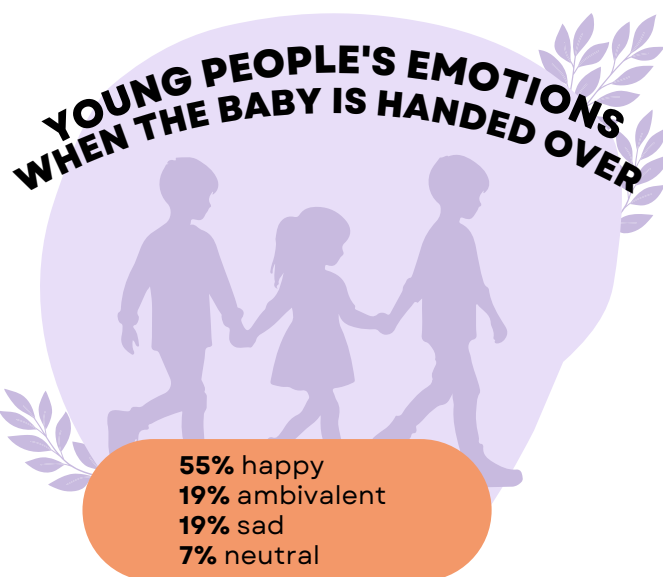
Others had **mixed feelings** and **sadness**, explaining that they would miss the child and his parents.

For young people, **separation** from the baby does not necessarily occur at birth. Because intended parents often live elsewhere (e.g., in another country), they may remain close to the young person's home for some time, both before and after the child's birth.

During that time, young people may spend some time with the intended parents. That's why their departure can be a source of **sadness** and **nostalgia**. Fortunately, these feelings are fleeting: young people say they have nothing but fond memories of that time.

METHODOLOGY

Our research team conducted interviews with **62 young participants** from 34 families, mainly in Quebec and in Ontario.



The parents were there until I think August. (...) I was very close (with them). I do remember the moment that we watched them going to the airport. It was pretty sad. We spent so much time with them, about two and a half months. (...) I hope we get to go to (country) someday and visit them or they'come back.

Axel, 13 years old

Handing over the child conceived through surrogacy to the intended parents has caused all kinds of reactions in the surrogate's children: joy, satisfaction, ambivalence, sadness and nostalgia. However, the most negative emotions do not last long.