

# WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CHILDREN OF SURROGATES AND THE INTENDED PARENTS?

## CONTEXT

A number of studies on surrogacy have highlighted the importance that surrogates and intended parents place on the **bonds that unite them** as a sign of satisfaction with the process. Do the children of surrogates also value the bonds with their intended parents?

## METHODOLOGY

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

## WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY

### During pregnancy

For some young people, a **close relationship** develops with the intended parents during pregnancy.

Children talk positively about times spent with the intended parents, whether during medical check-ups for the baby or activities organized with the intended parents (dinners, outings to the park, etc.).

Once, there was a party at our house. We ate cake with the parents and told them the sex of the baby.

**Anthony, 12 years old**



### After birth

Once the baby is born and has gone to live with its parents, the type of contact families maintain can vary.

These contacts can take **many forms**, from exchanging letters and photos, to telephone calls and videoconferences, or even joint family activities and vacations.

We see each other in the summer. Sometimes at Christmas gatherings and a few times a year. We go to the park and the dairy store.

**Aurore, 9 years old**

**Intended parents want to establish harmonious relationships not only with the surrogate, but also with her family. Thus, the majority of young people maintained contact with their intended parents (49 out of 59 respondents), although the form of contact varied. Of the ten young people who said they no longer had contact with them, some were unconcerned about the situation, while others were very critical.**