



The expanded Nevada surrogacy law is a great opportunity for the Center for Surrogate Parenting to expand its services. We have recruited two outstanding surrogacy professionals to help us in our efforts.

Meet Our Nevada Staff



Michele Subia

With close to 20 years of surrogacy experience, Michele recently joined the CSP team. Michele’s first surrogacy journey was with CSP in 1996 as a traditional surrogate. She had a wonderful experience delivering a boy, and knew she had found something special in helping an infertile couple have a family. Michele went on to do two egg donations and four more surrogate journeys over the next 15 years.

Michele has wanted to continue to help create families beyond her own journeys, and has been active in the Las Vegas community with many surrogate and intended parent forums and groups. The joys and experiences she has to share with others have given her great compassion and she brings these assets to work at CSP.

Married 25 years with two daughters, she is also blessed with five beautiful grandchildren. They have all been such an amazing support through her years in the surrogacy world, and her own daughters have mentioned possibly following in mom’s footsteps. With all her experience and her compassion to help women who want to become surrogate mothers, Michele is eager to be an effective coordinator in our Nevada area.

Robert M. Tzall, Esq.

Principal of the Law Offices of Robert M. Tzall, Mr. Tzall provides comprehensive legal and counseling services to individuals and couples utilizing assisted reproductive techniques (ART) to experience the joys of parenthood. The firm also represents clients in Nevada, New York, and New Jersey in commercial and real estate transactions, regulatory matters, and commercial collections. A graduate of U.C.L.A. and the University Of Miami School Of Law, Robert is admitted to practice law in Nevada, New York and New Jersey. He serves of counsel to Vorzimer Masserman, a California-based law firm internationally recognized as experts in reproductive Law. Robert lives with his wife and three children in Henderson, NV, where he is involved in local politics and business development efforts.



Special Nevada Issue!

About CSP

The Center for SurrogateParenting, Inc. (CSP) is a world-renowned surrogate parenting program with offices in Encino, CA, and Annapolis, MD. CSP was established because we strongly believe that couples who are ready and willing to take on the responsibility of parenthood deserve that opportunity. Having a child with the help of a surrogate can be an exciting and fulfilling way to meet that need.

The surrogacy process allows a child to be biologically related to either one or both parents. It also gives the couple the opportunity to become involved in the pregnancy itself. And finally, since their child is conceived only because of their own existence, the true genesis of the child is its creation in the minds and hearts of the couple.



“Nevada: A Great State to be a Gestational Carrier” by Robert M. Tzall, Esq.

Nevada law makes the Silver State a great place to be a gestational carrier. Amended in 2012, N.R.S §126 provides strong statutory protections for both carriers and intended parents.

Nevada law now not only explicitly recognizes the validity of a gestational carrier agreement but requires a written agreement between the parties. Under the amended law, all gestational carrier agreements must include clear information to the carrier regarding her legal, financial and contractual rights including agreeing to the embryo transfer as well as surrendering legal and physical custody to the intended parents upon birth. Intended parents must now pay for all reasonable expenses, including, without limitation, medical, legal or other professional expenses, related to the gestational carrier arrangement and the gestational carrier agreement. Cost is now not a barrier to carriers receiving the legal and medical advice they need to make informed choices.

Gestational carrier agreements can be entered into between residents of and/or visitors to Nevada. Intended parents do not need to be Nevada residents -- they can come from anywhere in the world. The amended law is neutral as to the marital status and/or sexual orientation of the intended parents. Additionally, parties to a gestational carrier arrangement can now petition family court for a pre-birth order establishing parentage -- doing away with the trouble

and additional expense of a post-birth adoption. A pre-birth order is especially important for intended parents from places where surrogacy is illegal or severely restricted.

Nevada law recognizes (and Nevada courts will enforce) that intended parents are the legally recognized parents of any resulting child the moment they entered into a gestational carrier arrangement. Intended parents cannot walk away or be excused from their legal and/or financial commitments to any resulting child should the pregnancy fail to go according to plan and/or the carrier violates certain terms of the agreement. Also, the amended law makes it clear that a gestational carrier will never be considered the legal parent of any resulting child simply by virtue of her participation in the arrangement.

These changes in the law are important and can benefit carriers greatly. Carriers are always encouraged to consult with a Nevada lawyer specializing in assisted reproductive technologies (ART) in order to ensure that all their rights and interests are protected.

Robert would be happy to answer any questions if you email him at robert@tzalllegal.com.





What Happens in Vegas Doesn't Necessarily Stay There

The major legal changes outlined in N.R.S §126 have opened up new opportunities for women who want to become surrogate mothers to help others have babies. Many intended parents find Nevada an ideal location to pursue surrogacy because it has several excellent fertility clinics, a wonderful year-round climate and is one of the world's most well-known, first-class vacation spots.

Fast forward a few years after she and her husband moved to Nevada and had two daughters. She then decided to move ahead and sent in an application.

Michele completed a traditional surrogacy with CSP as well as four gestational surrogacies independently. She has worked closely with fertility doctors in the Las Vegas area and definitely knows the ropes. Read what she has to say about her journey:

I have been involved in surrogacy 20+ years. I began as a TS and delivered my first traditional surrogacy boy in April 1996. After such an amazing journey, I continued helping infertile couples via gestational surrogacy with a girl born in August 2003, a boy born in February 2006, another girl in October 2007 and a boy born in October 2009. I also did egg donation twice.

I have since wanted to continue to help create families and be able to work with CSP, since I began my surrogacy journey with them. The joys and experiences I have to share with others will help me have compassion and to know the ins and outs of working for a great agency.

I have been married (25+ years) and have two daughters. I have also been blessed with five beautiful grandchildren. They have all been such an amazing support systems through my years of surrogacy. Both daughters have considered helping as I did, but at this time haven't pursued it yet.

I believe my years of experience with the ups and downs in surrogacy will help me in helping others who want to become surrogate mothers as well as help those in need of a precious baby.



Michele Subia and her beautiful extended family

So when surrogacy happens in Vegas or elsewhere in Nevada, the babies and parents will be traveling back to their home countries or states, prepared for their new lives as a family.

To help facilitate recruiting surrogates and to provide them with the necessary support, the Center for Surrogate Parenting has hired a surrogacy pro, five-time surrogate mom Michele Subia.

Michele was introduced to the Center for Surrogate Parenting over two decades ago. Seeing an ad in a *California Penny Saver*, she requested a packet to be mailed to her. Remember when communication occurred over the phone or via snail mail? Though she was not ready at that time, she kept CSP in the back of her mind for when the time would be right.



Danielle Pickens & Kristy Whatley: Two Silver State Surrogate Mothers

Two years ago on New Years Eve, **Danielle Pickens**, her husband, Justin, and their extended family were anticipating a bountiful 2013. They were celebrating with intended parents Karin Lee and Edward Wong, who were in Las Vegas awaiting the birth of their triplet daughters whom Danielle was carrying.

Danielle Pickens is a two-time surrogate mother who has worked with two couples to help fulfill their dreams. She delivered a girl at 39 weeks for her first family, who lived in Arizona, and with whom she is still close and in frequent communication. Her second couple, the Wongs, was featured in the fall 2013 issue of our Intended Parents newsletter. Living in London, but originally from Singapore, the Wongs had suffered multiple pregnancy losses before connecting with CSP and Daniele and her husband, Justin.

Though two embryos were transferred, Danielle became pregnant with triplets. Carrying a high-risk pregnancy, she was hospitalized twice for medical conditions like pre-term contractions, hyperemesis gravidarum and early positive fetal fibronectin tests.

Said Karin Lee: “We really appreciate the time and sacrifice Danielle made. Though she told us carrying triplets was her gift to

us, we know she and her family endured so much, both in daily life and especially with the hospitalizations. She was put on bed rest for an extended time and Justin had to do the housework and care for their two little girls, Kailley and Madi. It was difficult for them, but every time we checked, she was very positive and relaxed,” explained Karin. “We can’t thank her and Justin and their incredible families enough. It was a huge team effort.”

Danielle’s obstetrician, Dr. Laura Gorski at the High Risk Pregnancy Center at Sunrise Hospital, decided on an elective C-section on January 8, when the triplets would be at 35 weeks gestation. With 19 people waiting for her and the babies in the operating theatre, Danielle actually strolled into the delivery room herself. Danielle also broke the Sunrise Hospital record and the CSP record for carrying the triplets so healthily for so long.

Danielle, Justin and her two girls are now embarking on their third and final surrogacy journey, again with the Wongs, who wish to give their daughters another sibling.

[Read Kristy’s story on the next page.](#)

To the right: The Pickens and the Wongs enjoying the beach.

Work Colleagues Become Surrogacy Sisters

Kristy Whatley, Danielle Pickens, Stacie Grubner and Michele Subia all have a lot in common. Not only have they all been surrogate mothers at CSP, but they also have worked together as colleagues at Stewart Title in Nevada. Even before that, however, Kristy and Stacie worked together at a local day care center, but neither knew the other was involved with CSP until the day that someone from the agency called for Kristy. Stacie, however, answered the phone and thought the call was for her.

CSP’s Nevada surrogacy coordinator, Michele Subia, also found a job opportunity at Stewart Title, and Danielle Pickens was working there already. These women have bonded in more ways than one.

CSP Referral Program

If you have a work colleague and/or friend interested in surrogacy, you can earn a referral fee once they have entered into a signed contract. The amount of the fee is dependent on the state where the surrogate resides.





Kristy's Story.....

Like many surrogate mothers, Kristy Whatley was motivated to pursue surrogacy because of wanting to help a family member who had trouble conceiving. Eighteen years ago, surrogacy was still in its infancy, but nonetheless it intrigued Kristy. Also one of her co-workers at the day care center where she was employed was working with CSP. Eventually, the time was right for Kristy to fulfill her dream. She attended a group meeting with CSP surrogate Stacie (Grebner) and decided to act. That was the end of 2000 and by August 2001 she had an embryo transfer with a couple from Belgium for whom she carried their daughter, Caroline, who was born in May of 2002.

Says Kristy: "The feeling of seeing the parents together with their daughter was amazing. Watching the mom hold her little girl was more than I could ever ask for. That in itself made the journey absolutely worth it." Kristy still keeps in touch with this family (and others) through texting and email.

But once her first journey was over, Kristy felt an overwhelming desire to try surrogacy again, which she did three more times. Like many, she also has experienced the ups and downs that accompany most journeys. In 2004 she delivered twins for a California couple who got pregnant on the third transfer, though she had to remain on bed rest for the last trimester, which was difficult with two children at home. In 2007, surrogacy tugged at her heartstrings once more and she contracted with another local couple for whom she delivered a boy. She engaged with her second international couple and gave birth to another boy in 2013. Six weeks postpartum, however, Kristy experienced serious hemorrhaging that required a hysterectomy. Through it all, however, CSP had Kristy's back and supported her.

Though her surrogacy days are behind her, Kristy is grateful for the opportunities she has had with CSP to change so many people's lives.



Karin Lee and Danielle Pickens



Kristy Whatley painting Easter eggs with one of her surrogate children.