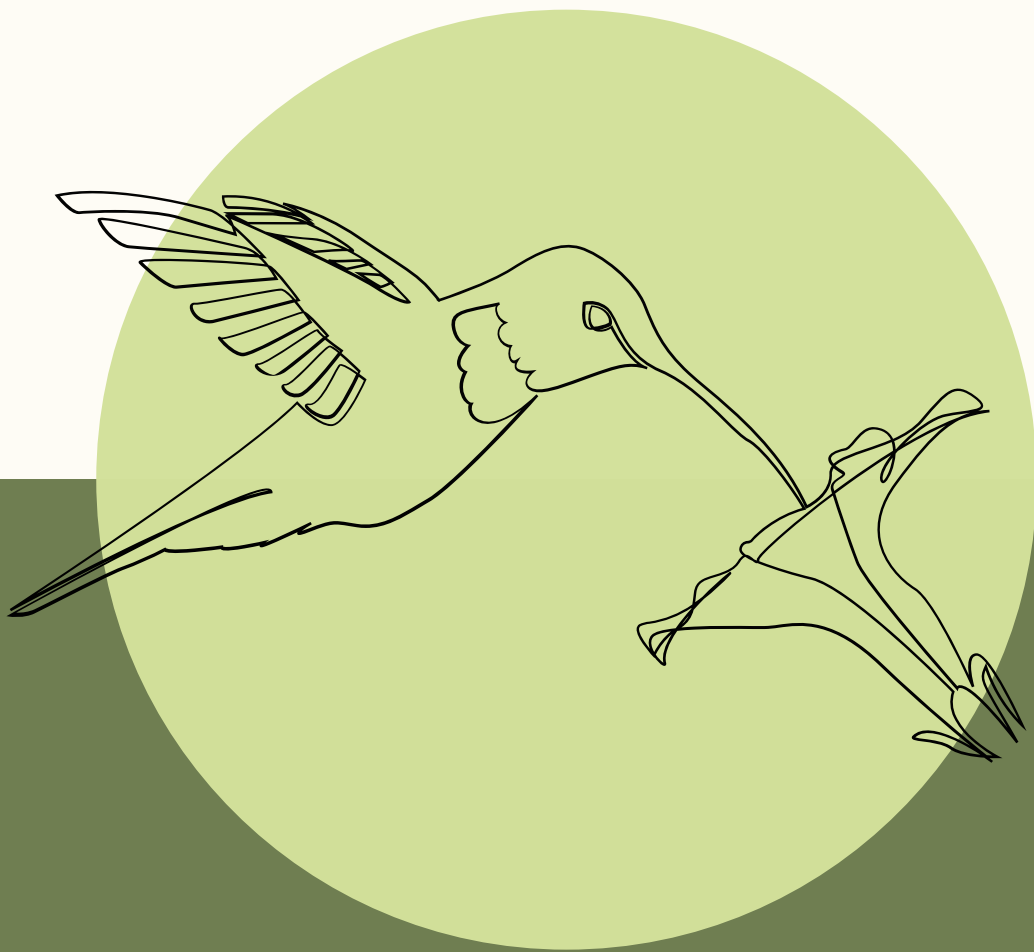


DONATING & SURROGACY FOR TWO SPIRIT, TRANS, OR GENDER-DIVERSE COMMUNITY

GUIDE AND FACT SHEET



THE RAVEN COLLECTIVE

Aim of this guide: to support relatives considering open (non-anonymous donor with agreed-upon donor/child relationship) donation of sperm, eggs, or offering surrogacy to a Two Spirit, trans or gender-diverse (2STGD) family. This is a guided self-reflection to decrease the emotional labor of 2STGD recipients and families, creating informed relationships that are approached with care. This guide is a starting point for potential donors/surrogates, primarily focusing on at-home insemination/pollination, to self-reflect before engaging in a high-stakes relationship with 2STGD families creating life despite transphobic systems that seek to erase Black and Indigenous sovereignty.



Self-Reflections Questions for Potential Donors/Surrogates

- Honoring the Desire to Donate/Surrogate
 - Why are you interested in being a donor or surrogate?
 - Have you considered the mental, emotional and physical labor involved in being a donor, surrogate or recipient? What is at stake for each party?
 - Do you have any attachment to the outcome of a donation (i.e. pregnancy, miscarriage, or whatever the recipient decides is necessary as the result of a donation)?

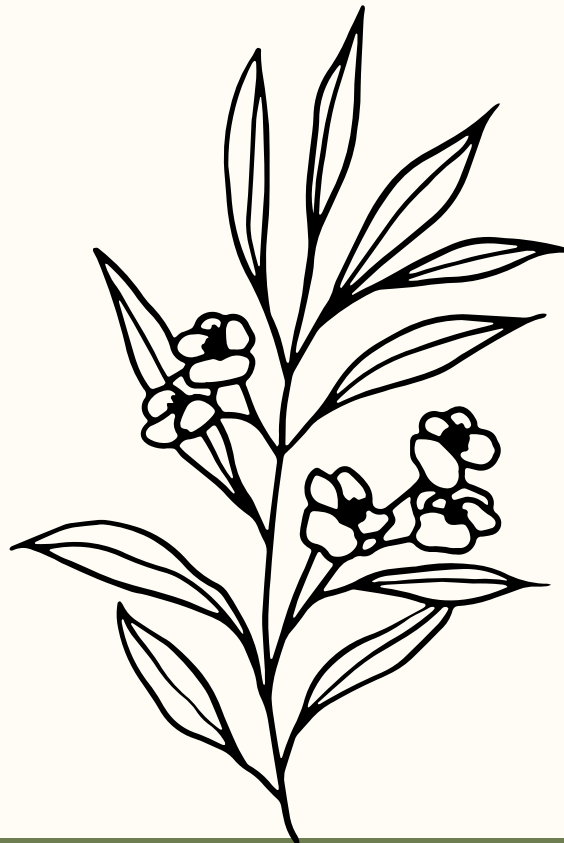


- Logistics: Time & Place
 - Donations or surrogacy can occur at home or in clinic settings, depending on the method of self-pollination (aka fertilization). What setting are you drawn to as a potential donor or surrogate?
 - Fertility can depend on many factors. What clinical tests or conversations are you willing to undergo to assess your candidacy?
 - IVF & Clinical Settings: if you need the support of a hospital or clinical setting to donate or work towards conception with a community member, donors often need to complete in-depth background checks such as psychiatric evaluations, genetic testing, STI testing, disclosure of personal and family trauma and medical history, and more. Please check with the facility that you're working with to be fully aware of all the testing or evaluations you may need to undergo so you can make an informed decision before beginning the process.
 - Donation and surrogacy varies in physical and time demand; are you aware of and willing to accommodate these changes in your daily life until conception or birth occurs?
 - Ovulation windows are often narrow (12-24 hours) and successful conception can largely depend upon fertilizing an egg at an exact moment, thus it is imperative that donors be available to donate at any time during these windows. Last minute changes and unavailability to meet these windows can be devastating to recipients who are already riding an emotional rollercoaster during the self-pollination process.

- Relationships
 - What other relationships or commitments may be affected by your decision to donate or surrogate?
 - What conversations or support do you need to ensure that your intimate and familial networks understand your commitment to donate? If they are not supportive, how will this affect your ability to donate or surrogate?
 - What relationships exist in your life that will intertwine with the donor or surrogate recipient and their child(ren)? If applicable, how will your existing children and family members relate to the donor or surrogate recipient's child(ren)?

- Boundaries
 - What are your needs and boundaries regarding donation or surrogacy?
 - Contracts or recorded agreements are often used to honor the present and future safety of all parties (including any children as the result of a donation/surrogacy). Have you considered creating some type of contract to protect all parties involved? If so, what kind of counsel do you need to create this agreement?
 - What agreements can you create around your relationship to the recipient and their child(ren) that allows for flexibility and feelings/boundaries to change over time?
 - Costs (financial and more):
 - What financial costs may be involved for the particular path you and your community members have chosen (i.e. fertility testing, surgical and hospitalization for harvesting eggs, practitioners' fees, freezing and storing sperm, attorney's fees)? How will these costs be divided, if at all?
 - What emotional, physical, or spiritual exchange do you foresee by entering this donor/surrogate relationship? How are you willing to give of yourself and what do you need to receive in order to feel sustained throughout this process?

- Lineage
 - Who are the lands and waters that gave birth to your ancestors?
 - Is there any genealogical or family story that you want to archive for the recipient or potential child?
 - What intergenerational healing or struggle lives within your body and may be passed on to any blood descendants? How do you want to record or offer this knowledge to your recipient and their family?
- Power & Privilege Dynamics
 - What forms of privilege do you experience that allow you to donate or surrogate? Inversely what experiences of oppression may be driving your desire to donate or surrogate?
 - How do these lived experiences intersect with that of your recipient(s)? Use this understanding to help you meet your recipient with more care and compassion through the uncertainty of the self-pollination journey.



There is no right or wrong answer to these prompts, but ultimately you and the other parties involved need to discuss and feel comfortable with the responses that are generated by this guide. If you or another party find yourselves hitting a wall when reflecting on any of these questions, take note of what comes up for you somatically and return to that section later. What sensations arise in your body when you are feeling a ‘yes’ or a ‘no’ to any of these questions? Our bodies are intelligent and can be useful in showing us where our boundaries reside even if we are trying to convince ourselves otherwise. It’s ok to not feel 100% yes to all of these questions or to not know your answers—taking the time to let your truth emerge is part of extending care and respect to yourself and all parties involved in creating families.

