

<DateSubmitted>

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President:  
Mr. Speaker:

The Conference Committee, to which was referred

**HB2468**

By: Dunnington of the House and Howard of the Senate

Title: Children; creating the Oklahoma Gestational Agreement Act; codification; effective date; emergency.

Together with Engrossed Senate Amendments thereto, beg leave to report that we have had the same under consideration and herewith return the same with the following recommendations:

1. That the Senate recede from its amendment and;
2. That the attached Conference Committee Substitute be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

House Action \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Senate Action \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**SENATE CONFEREES**

Howard \_\_\_\_\_

Daniels \_\_\_\_\_

Leewright \_\_\_\_\_

Sharp \_\_\_\_\_

Boren \_\_\_\_\_

Brooks \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE  
SUBSTITUTE  
FOR ENGROSSED  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2468

By: Dunnington of the House

and

Howard, Brooks and  
Standridge of the Senate

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to children; creating the Oklahoma Gestational Agreement Act; providing policy; defining terms; providing qualifications to serve as a gestational carrier; providing qualification for intended parents; listing necessary persons to a gestational agreement; providing certain requirements for agreement; requiring certain terms for valid agreement; providing exceptions; requiring certain provisions; requiring validation prior to transfer of gametes or embryos; providing procedure for court to validate gestational agreement; requiring certain terms to be included in petition; specifying when a court may validate a gestational agreement; providing procedural requirements; providing for amendments and termination of a gestational agreement; providing for governance of this act; providing for jurisdiction and venue; providing for reimbursement and payment to gestational carriers; providing donor rights; prohibiting use of certain gametes or embryos; providing rights to parents; providing rights of child; prohibiting change of marital status by gestational carrier to affect rights to the child; providing for validation for gestational agreement for certain errors; providing governance for breach of agreement; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

2 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
3 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557 of Title 10, unless there is  
4 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

5 Sections 1 through 26 of this act shall be known and may be  
6 cited as the "Oklahoma Gestational Agreement Act".

7 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
8 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.1 of Title 10, unless there  
9 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

10 It is the policy of the State of Oklahoma to allow private  
11 parties to enter into gestational agreements in order to help  
12 facilitate the birth of children to parents who are not otherwise  
13 able to conceive or carry them, to allow the gestational carriers of  
14 such children to be properly compensated for providing this  
15 important and selfless undertaking and to provide a mechanism to  
16 ensure that gestational agreements will be enforced and that the  
17 expectations of the parties to gestational agreements will be  
18 protected.

19 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.2 of Title 10, unless there  
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 As used in the Oklahoma Gestational Agreement Act:

23 1. "Act" means the Oklahoma Gestational Agreement Act;  
24

1       2. "Assisted reproduction" means a method of causing pregnancy  
2 other than sexual intercourse. The term includes, but is not  
3 limited to, intrauterine insemination, donation of eggs, donation of  
4 embryos, in vitro fertilization and transfer of embryos and  
5 intracytoplasmic sperm injection;

6       3. "Court" means any district court of competent jurisdiction  
7 as provided in this act;

8       4. "Donor" means an individual who contributes a gamete or  
9 gametes or an embryo or embryos for the purpose of assisted  
10 reproduction with no claim to present or future parental rights or  
11 obligations to any resulting child and who is not an intended  
12 parent, gestational carrier or gestational spouse;

13       5. "Gamete" means either the ovum (egg) or the spermatozoon  
14 (sperm);

15       6. "Gestational agreement" means a written contract between the  
16 gestational carrier, the gestational spouse if applicable, the  
17 intended parents and, optionally, one or more donors, if applicable,  
18 which sets forth the obligations, rights and duties of the parties  
19 to a gestational carrier arrangement;

20       7. "Gestational carrier" means a woman, whether married or  
21 unmarried, who is neither an intended parent nor a donor and who  
22 agrees to become pregnant with the genetic child of one or more  
23 intended parents and/or one or more donors by means of assisted  
24 reproduction pursuant to a gestational carrier arrangement;

1       8. "Gestational carrier arrangement" means the process by which  
2 a gestational carrier attempts to become pregnant with a child  
3 through assisted reproduction using any number of gametes or embryos  
4 that are provided by one or more intended parents and/or one or more  
5 donors, who may or may not be genetically related to any intended  
6 parent, and carry and give birth to such child with the intention  
7 that such child will be solely the legal child of the intended  
8 parents. A gestational carrier arrangement does not include any  
9 attempt to conceive, implant or carry a child to which the  
10 gestational carrier or gestational spouse has made any genetic  
11 contribution;

12       9. "Gestational spouse" means the spouse of the gestational  
13 carrier if the gestational carrier is married at the time the  
14 gestational carrier enters into the gestational agreement. The term  
15 does not apply to any person the gestational carrier marries after  
16 the gestational carrier enters into the gestational agreement.  
17 Unless context clearly requires otherwise, any reference to a  
18 gestational spouse in this act and any action required of a  
19 gestational spouse by this act or any prohibition applicable to a  
20 gestational spouse by this act shall not apply if the gestational  
21 carrier was not married to such person at the time the gestational  
22 carrier entered into the gestational agreement;

23       10. "Intended parent" means any person who intends to become  
24 the lawful parent of a child conceived, implanted or carried

1 pursuant to a gestational agreement. The term "intended parent"  
2 shall mean both intended parents or, if only one intended parent is  
3 party to the gestational agreement, then it shall mean such singular  
4 intended parent unless context clearly requires otherwise;

5 11. "Mental health consultation" means an in-person meeting  
6 with a licensed mental health professional for the purposes of  
7 educating the participants about the effects and potential  
8 consequences of their participation in a gestational carrier  
9 arrangement, and of evaluating any potential psychological issues  
10 and risks posed by a party to a gestational carrier arrangement,  
11 including, but not limited to, the intended parent or parents or the  
12 gestational carrier's mental health, external and environmental  
13 factors, ability to manage relationships, potential attachment  
14 issues, and ability to carry out his or her obligations, rights and  
15 duties under a gestational carrier arrangement;

16 12. "Mental health professional" means an individual who:

17 a. holds a master's or doctoral degree in the field of  
18 psychiatry, psychology, counseling, social work,  
19 psychiatric nursing or marriage and family therapy,  
20 and

21 b. is duly licensed, certified, authorized or registered  
22 under the laws of a state to practice in the mental  
23 health field; and  
24

1        13. "Spouse of the gestational carrier" means a person to whom  
2 the gestational carrier is married, whether or not such person is a  
3 gestational spouse under this act.

4        SECTION 4.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified  
5 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.3 of Title 10, unless there  
6 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

7        A. Any prospective gestational carrier who meets the  
8 requirements for gestational carriers pursuant to the Oklahoma  
9 Gestational Agreement Act and the gestational spouse, if applicable,  
10 may enter into a gestational agreement with one or more intended  
11 parents of a child to be conceived pursuant to such gestational  
12 agreement.

13        B. A gestational agreement must meet the minimum requirements  
14 under this act, including validation by the court. A gestational  
15 agreement that conforms to these requirements and has been validated  
16 in compliance with this act is a legal contract and is legally  
17 enforceable.

18        C. A gestational agreement under this act shall be governed by  
19 Oklahoma law, and this act shall control over any other law which  
20 conflicts with the express terms of this act insofar as such other  
21 law relates to the creation, validation or enforcement of  
22 gestational agreements, the rights and obligations of the parties  
23 thereto and any children born as a result thereof.



1 D. A gestational carrier arrangement carried out under a  
2 validated gestational agreement in compliance with this act shall  
3 not be considered trafficking in children.

4 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
5 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.4 of Title 10, unless there  
6 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

7 A. In order to serve as a gestational carrier under a  
8 gestational agreement, the gestational carrier must:

9 1. Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age at the time she  
10 enters into the gestational agreement;

11 2. Have given birth to at least one child;

12 3. Have been a resident of Oklahoma for at least ninety (90)  
13 consecutive days immediately preceding the date she enters into the  
14 gestational agreement, unless one or more intended parent has been a  
15 resident of Oklahoma for at least ninety (90) consecutive days  
16 immediately preceding the date the gestational carrier enters into  
17 the agreement;

18 4. Have completed a physical medical evaluation relating to the  
19 anticipated pregnancy; and

20 5. Have completed a mental health consultation.

21 B. Each intended parent of a child to be born pursuant to a  
22 gestational carrier agreement must have completed a mental health  
23 consultation.

1           SECTION 6.           NEW LAW           A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.5 of Title 10, unless there  
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4           A. The following persons, and only the following persons, are  
5 necessary parties to a gestational agreement, and a gestational  
6 agreement shall not be validated if all such applicable necessary  
7 parties have not joined in the gestational agreement in compliance  
8 with the Oklahoma Gestational Agreement Act:

- 9           1. The gestational carrier;
- 10           2. The gestational spouse, if applicable; and
- 11           3. Each intended parent of a child to be born pursuant to a  
12 gestational carrier arrangement.

13           B. The following requirements apply to the necessary parties to  
14 a gestational agreement, and failure to meet such requirements shall  
15 prevent a court from validating the gestational agreement:

- 16           1. The gestational carrier, the gestational spouse, if  
17 applicable, and each intended parent must be at least twenty-one  
18 (21) years of age at the time the parties enter into the gestational  
19 agreement;
- 20           2. No more than two intended parents may be party to a  
21 gestational agreement;
- 22           3. If an intended parent is married, then that intended  
23 parent's spouse must be a party to the gestational agreement as an  
24 intended parent;

1 4. If there are two intended parents that are party to a  
2 gestational agreement, then they must be married to each other; and

3 5. No person may be a party to a gestational agreement under  
4 this act if such person is in the United States illegally pursuant  
5 to the immigration laws of the United States in effect at the time  
6 of a gestational agreement.

7 SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
8 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.6 of Title 10, unless there  
9 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

10 A. A gestational agreement must meet the following requirements  
11 in order for it to be validated:

12 1. The gestational agreement must be in writing;

13 2. The gestational agreement must be acknowledged before a  
14 notary public by each of the parties;

15 3. All parties to the gestational agreement must be represented  
16 by legal counsel regarding the gestational agreement, and the  
17 parties to the gestational agreement may share legal counsel  
18 provided that the gestational carrier and gestational spouse, if  
19 applicable, must have legal counsel that is separate and independent  
20 from the legal counsel for the intended parents; and

21 4. The gestational agreement must contain a written statement,  
22 signed by each party's legal counsel, identifying which parties to  
23 the gestational agreement such counsel represents and stating that  
24

1 such counsel has advised such parties of the potential legal  
2 consequences of entering into the gestational agreement.

3 B. A gestational agreement must contain terms providing each of  
4 the following in order for it to be validated:

5 1. That each party to the gestational agreement consents to  
6 personal jurisdiction in the courts of Oklahoma for all matters  
7 connected with the gestational agreement and all matters concerning  
8 the parentage of any child born as part of the gestational carrier  
9 arrangement;

10 2. That the gestational carrier agrees to pregnancy by means of  
11 assisted reproduction;

12 3. That the gestational carrier and the gestational spouse, if  
13 applicable, relinquish all parental rights and obligations with  
14 respect to any child contemplated by the gestational agreement that  
15 is conceived or implanted through assisted reproduction and shall  
16 surrender all legal and physical custody of that child to the  
17 intended parents immediately upon birth of that child;

18 4. That the intended parents shall be the sole parents of any  
19 child born pursuant to the gestational carrier arrangement and that  
20 such intended parents shall be entitled to and shall accept legal  
21 and physical custody of the child and all parental rights and  
22 obligations with respect to such child immediately upon the child's  
23 birth, regardless of the mental or physical condition of such child  
24 or the number of such children; provided, however, that such child

1 is not a genetic child of the gestational carrier or the gestational  
2 spouse;

3 5. That the gestational carrier, the gestational spouse, if  
4 applicable, and each intended parent agree to exchange throughout  
5 the period covered by the gestational agreement all relevant  
6 information regarding their respective health;

7 6. That any gametes used in the assisted reproduction procedure  
8 shall be retrieved from an intended parent or a donor and not the  
9 gestational carrier or the gestational spouse;

10 7. The identity of one or more physicians or one or more  
11 medical facilities that will or may perform the assisted  
12 reproduction procedure contemplated by the gestational agreement;

13 8. A statement acknowledging that at least one or more  
14 physicians or medical facilities that will or may perform the  
15 assisted reproduction procedure as provided by the gestational  
16 agreement has informed the necessary parties to the gestational  
17 agreement of:

18 a. the rate of successful conceptions and births  
19 attributable to the procedure, including the most  
20 recent published outcome statistics of the procedure  
21 at the facility at which it will be performed,

22 b. the potential for and risks associated with the  
23 implantation of multiple embryos and consequent  
24 multiple births resulting from the procedure,

- c. the nature of and expenses related to the procedure,
- d. the health risks associated with, as applicable, fertility drugs used in the procedure, egg retrieval procedures and egg or embryo transfer procedures, and
- e. reasonably foreseeable psychological effects resulting from the procedure; and

9. The identity of which party or parties are responsible for the reasonable medical, legal and travel expenses associated with the gestational carrier arrangement, including providing for who is responsible for those expenses if the gestational agreement is terminated.

C. The Oklahoma Gestational Agreement Act shall not apply to any child conceived by means of sexual intercourse, and a gestational agreement shall not apply to any child so conceived.

D. The inclusion in a gestational agreement of any one or more of the following provisions shall not constitute cause for a court to deny the validation of the gestational agreement, and such provisions in a validated gestational agreement shall be enforceable:

1. The gestational carrier's agreement to undergo all medical examinations, treatments and fetal monitoring procedures recommended for the success of the pregnancy by the physician providing care to the gestational carrier during the pregnancy;

1           2. The gestational carrier's agreement to abstain from any  
2 activities that the intended parents or the physician providing care  
3 to the gestational carrier during the pregnancy reasonably believe  
4 to be harmful to the pregnancy or the future health of any resulting  
5 child, including, without limitation, smoking, drinking alcohol,  
6 using nonprescribed drugs, using prescription drugs not authorized  
7 by a physician aware of the pregnancy, exposure to radiation or any  
8 other activity proscribed by a health care provider;

9           3. The agreement of the intended parents to pay the gestational  
10 carrier reasonable compensation;

11           4. The agreement of the intended parents to pay for or  
12 reimburse the gestational carrier or any spouse of the gestational  
13 carrier for reasonable expenses, including, without limitation,  
14 medical, legal or other professional expenses or lost time from work  
15 related to the gestational carrier arrangement or the gestational  
16 agreement; and

17           5. Any other agreement of the parties not contrary to this act  
18 or any other applicable law.

19           SECTION 8.       NEW LAW       A new section of law to be codified  
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.7 of Title 10, unless there  
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22           A. A gestational agreement must be validated as provided by the  
23 Oklahoma Gestational Agreement Act prior to the transfer of gametes  
24

1 or embryos to the gestational carrier for the purpose of conception  
2 or implantation under a gestational carrier arrangement.

3 B. Nothing in this act shall prohibit any of the following,  
4 undertaken in compliance with applicable law, even though a  
5 gestational agreement is not yet validated:

6 1. The gestational carrier from undertaking a medical or  
7 hormonal regimen designed to increase the likelihood of conception  
8 or implantation;

9 2. One or more intended parents or one or more donors from  
10 undertaking a medical or hormonal regimen designed to aid in the  
11 production or vitality of gametes;

12 3. The acquisition, retrieval, collection, creation, growth,  
13 testing or storage of gametes from one or more intended parents or  
14 one or more donors; or

15 4. The acquisition, retrieval, collection, creation, growth,  
16 testing or storage of embryos derived from the gametes of one or  
17 more intended parents or one or more donors.

18 SECTION 9. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.8 of Title 10, unless there  
20 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 A. A gestational agreement that is not validated as provided by  
22 the Oklahoma Gestational Agreement Act is unenforceable except to  
23 the extent expressly provided by this act.

24



1 B. The parent-child relationship for a child born as a result  
2 of an assisted reproduction procedure under a gestational agreement  
3 that is not validated as provided by this act is determined as  
4 otherwise provided by Oklahoma law.

5 C. A gestational agreement that has not been validated shall  
6 nonetheless be enforceable to the extent it requires any party under  
7 such gestational agreement to pay for or to reimburse any other  
8 party for any medical, legal or travel expenses incurred pursuant to  
9 the gestational agreement.

10 SECTION 10. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
11 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.9 of Title 10, unless there  
12 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

13 The following shall be the procedure to request that the court  
14 validate a gestational agreement:

15 1. Any one or more of the parties to a gestational agreement  
16 shall file a petition to validate the gestational agreement in a  
17 district court having jurisdiction as provided by the Oklahoma  
18 Gestational Agreement Act;

19 2. A petition to validate the gestational agreement shall, at a  
20 minimum, provide:

21 a. the names and current addresses, if known, of each  
22 party to the gestational agreement,  
23  
24

- 1           b.   allegations setting forth the satisfaction of this  
2                   act's requirements for a gestational agreement and the  
3                   parties thereto,  
4           c.   if any of the parties to a gestational agreement have  
5                   not joined the petition, the identity of such parties  
6                   and, if known, the reasons such parties have not  
7                   joined the petition,  
8           d.   whether or not any assisted reproduction procedures  
9                   have taken place as part of the gestational carrier  
10                  arrangement and, if so, the date of each such  
11                  procedure and whether such procedures have resulted in  
12                  pregnancy of the gestational carrier, and  
13           e.   a request that the court validate the gestational  
14                  agreement, as well as a request setting forth any  
15                  additional relief sought in connection with the  
16                  validation of the gestational agreement;

17           3.   A complete, unredacted copy of the gestational agreement  
18 must be attached to the petition;

19           4.   The petitioner shall attach affidavits, declarations,  
20 statements, other evidence or any combination thereof to the  
21 petition to support the allegations in the petition regarding the  
22 satisfaction of the requirements of this act and to aid the court in  
23 its determination of whether the requirements to validate the  
24 gestational agreement have been met; and

1           5. Any party not joining the petition to validate shall be  
2 served with a copy of the petition to validate and a summons in the  
3 same manner as in civil cases. After being so duly served, the  
4 nonjoining party shall answer and respond to the petition to  
5 validate within ten (10) days and shall provide allegations and  
6 evidence to aid the court in its determination of whether the  
7 requirements to validate the gestational agreement have been met.  
8 The failure of any nonjoining party to answer or otherwise respond  
9 after being duly served shall not prevent the court from validating  
10 a gestational agreement if the requirements of this act are  
11 otherwise satisfied.

12           SECTION 11.           NEW LAW           A new section of law to be codified  
13 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.10 of Title 10, unless there  
14 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

15           A. A court may validate a gestational agreement only as  
16 provided by this section.

17           B. A gestational agreement may be validated under the Oklahoma  
18 Gestational Agreement Act only if the court finds by a preponderance  
19 of the evidence that:

20           1. The court has jurisdiction over all parties to the  
21 gestational agreement;

22           2. The parties to the gestational agreement meet all the  
23 requirements set forth in this act for such parties and all  
24

1 necessary parties to the gestational agreement have entered into the  
2 gestational agreement;

3 3. The gestational agreement meets all the requirements for  
4 gestational agreements set forth in this act;

5 4. The medical evidence provided shows that the intended parent  
6 is unable to carry a pregnancy to term and give birth to a child or  
7 is unable to carry a pregnancy to term and give birth to a child  
8 without unreasonable risk to the intended parent's physical or  
9 mental health or to the health of the unborn child;

10 5. Each party to the gestational agreement has been advised by  
11 legal counsel in compliance with this act and has voluntarily  
12 entered into and understands the terms of the gestational agreement;

13 6. The gestational carrier has given birth to at least one  
14 child and carrying another pregnancy to term and giving birth to  
15 another child would not pose an unreasonable risk to that child's  
16 health or the physical or mental health of the gestational carrier;  
17 and

18 7. The intended parents have made guardianship provisions for  
19 the prospective child by amending their existing estate planning  
20 documents or by executing estate planning documents containing such  
21 provisions if they previously had no existing estate planning  
22 documents.

23

24

1 C. If the court finds that the requirements of subsection B of  
2 this section are satisfied, then the court shall render an order  
3 that:

4 1. Validates the gestational agreement and declares that the  
5 intended parents will be the sole parents of any child born under  
6 the gestational agreement;

7 2. Orders that each intended parent who is a party to the  
8 gestational agreement be listed as a parent on such child's  
9 certificate of birth to be filed with the state registrar of vital  
10 statistics as provided by Oklahoma law and that neither the  
11 gestational carrier nor any spouse of the gestational carrier shall  
12 be listed on said certificate of birth;

13 3. Orders the hospital, birthing facility or any other medical  
14 facility where such child is born to recognize the intended parents  
15 as the legal parents of such child for all purposes immediately upon  
16 the birth of such child; and

17 4. Unless the gestational agreement provides otherwise, orders  
18 the hospital, birthing facility or any other medical facility where  
19 such child is born to grant the intended parents the following  
20 rights:

- 21 a. the right to immediate custody of and access to such  
22 child upon birth,
- 23 b. the right to name such child,

24

1 c. the right to make any and all health decisions  
2 regarding such child upon birth, and

3 d. the right to be designated as the people to be issued  
4 armbands or other security devices identifying them as  
5 the parents of such child. The gestational carrier  
6 and any spouse of the gestational carrier shall not  
7 receive such armbands or security devices unless it is  
8 medically necessary for such child's welfare.

9 D. For good cause shown, a court may validate a gestational  
10 agreement even though it was not validated at the time of transfer  
11 of gametes or embryos to the gestational carrier for the purpose of  
12 conception or implantation, provided that such gestational agreement  
13 was entered into by all necessary parties to the gestational  
14 agreement prior to the time of transfer of such gametes or embryos  
15 to the gestational carrier for the purpose of conception or  
16 implantation, and provided that the court finds that all other  
17 requirements needed to validate a gestational agreement under this  
18 act have been satisfied.

19 E. The court may rely solely on affidavits, declarations,  
20 testimony, other competent evidence or any combination thereof in  
21 making its determination as to whether the requirements to validate  
22 a gestational agreement have been satisfied. A court need not  
23 conduct an evidentiary hearing if it finds that the documentary  
24 evidence supplied by the parties petitioning to validate a

1 gestational agreement is sufficient to show by a preponderance of  
2 the evidence that the requirements to validate the agreement are  
3 satisfied.

4 F. The court's determination as to whether or not the  
5 requirements to validate a gestational agreement have been satisfied  
6 is subject to review only for abuse of discretion.

7 G. If the court determines that the gestational agreement does  
8 not meet the necessary requirements to be validated, the court shall  
9 issue an order identifying with specificity each deficiency that it  
10 found which prevents it from validating the gestational agreement.  
11 The parties may thereafter amend the gestational agreement or cure  
12 any other identified deficiencies and thereafter file an amended  
13 petition to validate the gestational agreement. The same  
14 requirements shall apply to validating an amended gestational  
15 agreement as would apply to validating an original gestational  
16 agreement. The parties may amend as many times as needed to cure  
17 any deficiencies identified by the court.

18 SECTION 12. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.11 of Title 10, unless there  
20 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 A. Upon the validation by the court of a gestational agreement  
22 conforming with the requirements of the Oklahoma Gestational  
23 Agreement Act, any child born as a result of an assisted  
24 reproduction procedure to a gestational carrier under the

1 gestational agreement shall be considered at law in all respects the  
2 same as a naturally conceived legitimate child of the intended  
3 parents. The parent-child relationship shall exist solely between  
4 such intended parents and such child regardless of the fact that the  
5 gestational carrier gave birth to the child or that the spouse of  
6 the gestational carrier is or was married to the gestational carrier  
7 at or before the time of such birth. The gestational carrier and  
8 any spouse of the gestational carrier if she is married shall have  
9 no parental rights or obligations with respect to such child.

10 B. A person acting in the capacity of a donor shall not be a  
11 parent of a child conceived as a result of assisted reproduction  
12 under a gestational carrier arrangement and shall have no rights or  
13 obligations with respect to such child.

14 SECTION 13. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.12 of Title 10, unless there  
16 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. Upon the birth of a child to a gestational carrier under a  
18 validated gestational agreement, the intended parents shall file a  
19 notice of the birth with the court not later than twenty-one (21)  
20 days after the birth occurs.

21 B. Upon receiving notice of the birth, the court shall render  
22 an order that:

23 1. Confirms that the intended parents are the child's parents;  
24



1           2. If necessary, requires the gestational carrier and any  
2 spouse of the gestational carrier if she is married to surrender the  
3 child to the intended parents; and

4           3. If necessary, requires the state registrar of vital  
5 statistics to issue a birth certificate naming the intended parents  
6 as the child's sole parents.

7           C. If the intended parents fail to file the notice required by  
8 subsection A of this section, the gestational carrier or an  
9 appropriate state agency may file the notice required by that  
10 subsection. On a showing that an order validating the gestational  
11 agreement was rendered in accordance with the Oklahoma Gestational  
12 Agreement Act, the court shall order that the intended parents are  
13 the child's parents and are financially responsible for the child.

14           D. If a person alleges that a child born to a gestational  
15 carrier:

16           1. Did not result from assisted reproduction; or

17           2. Is a genetic child of the gestational carrier or the  
18 gestational spouse, such that either the gestational carrier or the  
19 gestational spouse made a genetic contribution to any gamete from  
20 which the child was conceived or the embryo from which the child was  
21 grown,

22 the court shall order that scientifically accepted parentage testing  
23 in compliance with Oklahoma law be conducted to determine the  
24 child's parentage. If the court determines that any of the

1 allegations in paragraph 1 or 2 of this subsection are true, the  
2 Oklahoma Gestational Agreement Act shall not apply and the  
3 parentage, rights and obligations of the parties and the child shall  
4 be determined as otherwise provided by Oklahoma law. Any action  
5 related to such allegations may only be brought within one hundred  
6 eighty (180) days after the birth of the child and not afterward.  
7 The preceding sentence shall be interpreted as a statute of repose  
8 and not as a statute of limitations.

9 SECTION 14. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
10 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.13 of Title 10, unless there  
11 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

12 A. If the parties to a validated gestational agreement desire  
13 to amend it, the amended gestational agreement must be validated to  
14 be enforceable.

15 B. To validate amendments to a previously validated gestational  
16 agreement, an amended petition must be filed in the same cause as  
17 the petition under which the gestational agreement was originally  
18 validated. The amended petition must identify the amendments the  
19 parties seek to make to the gestational agreement, and said parties  
20 must attach a copy of the amended gestational agreement.

21 C. The court shall apply the same requirements and utilize the  
22 same procedures in determining whether to validate the amended  
23 gestational agreement as are used in determining whether to validate  
24 any other gestational agreement.

1 D. Upon validation of the amended gestational agreement, the  
2 amended gestational agreement shall supersede any earlier versions  
3 of the gestational agreement, and the earlier versions of the  
4 gestational agreement shall be of no further force or effect.

5 E. A validated gestational agreement may not be amended to  
6 change the identity of the gestational carrier, the gestational  
7 spouse, if applicable, or any intended parent. In such instances,  
8 the validated gestational agreement must be terminated in compliance  
9 with the Oklahoma Gestational Agreement Act, and the gestational  
10 agreement with the new parties must be validated in a separate  
11 action.

12 F. Nothing in this section shall prevent a gestational  
13 agreement that has not been previously validated from being amended  
14 as to any matter or term by agreement of the parties. Any such  
15 amended gestational agreement must still be validated in compliance  
16 with this act in order for it be enforceable.

17 SECTION 15. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.14 of Title 10, unless there  
19 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 A. In no event may a gestational agreement be terminated after  
21 the gestational carrier becomes pregnant by means of assisted  
22 reproduction.

23 B. Other than as prohibited by subsection A of this section, a  
24 gestational agreement may be terminated by any party thereto as

1 permitted by the terms of the agreement under the following  
2 procedures:

3 1. Any of the parties to a validated gestational agreement may  
4 seek to terminate the gestational agreement by first giving written  
5 notice of termination of the gestational agreement to each other  
6 party to the gestational agreement;

7 2. A person who sends the notice to terminate a validated  
8 gestational agreement shall file notice of the termination with the  
9 appropriate court. The court shall thereafter enter an order  
10 vacating the validation of the gestational agreement and terminating  
11 the gestational agreement. As necessary, prior to issuing the order  
12 vacating the validation and terminating the gestational agreement,  
13 the court may consider evidence to confirm the gestational carrier  
14 is not pregnant by means of assisted reproduction;

15 3. A validated gestational agreement is not terminated until an  
16 order vacating the validation and terminating the gestational  
17 agreement has been entered by the court;

18 4. If a gestational agreement has not been validated, it may be  
19 terminated by any of the parties thereto by such party sending a  
20 written notice of termination to the other parties to the  
21 gestational agreement. It is not necessary for a court to enter an  
22 order terminating a gestational agreement that has not been  
23 validated;

24

1        5. The notice of termination required by this section shall be  
2 served upon the other parties to the gestational agreement in the  
3 same manner as summons is served in civil cases;

4        6. Upon receipt of a notice to terminate a gestational  
5 agreement, the gestational carrier shall not undergo any assisted  
6 reproductive procedure to transfer any gametes or embryos to the  
7 gestational carrier for the purpose of conception or implantation as  
8 part of the gestational carrier arrangement unless otherwise  
9 permitted by the court;

10       7. No party to a gestational agreement shall be liable to any  
11 other party for damages for terminating a gestational agreement in  
12 accordance with this section; provided, however, that termination of  
13 a gestational agreement, whether validated or not, shall not relieve  
14 any party of the duty to pay for or to reimburse any other party for  
15 any medical, legal or travel expenses incurred pursuant to the  
16 gestational agreement prior to its termination which would otherwise  
17 be owed if the gestational agreement had not been terminated, and a  
18 party having a duty to pay or reimburse such expenses shall be  
19 liable to pay or reimburse such expenses; and

20       8. Notwithstanding anything in this act to the contrary, within  
21 one (1) year of the termination of a gestational agreement, whether  
22 validated or not, any party to the gestational agreement may file a  
23 written petition with the court that terminated a gestational  
24 agreement seeking to reinstate the gestational agreement and

1 requesting the court validate the gestational agreement. The party  
2 filing such petition shall serve such petition on all other parties  
3 to the gestational agreement in the same manner as serving a  
4 petition in a civil case in Oklahoma. In any such case, the sole  
5 basis upon which the court may reinstate the gestational agreement  
6 and validate it is if the court finds through competent evidence  
7 that the gestational carrier became pregnant by means of an assisted  
8 reproduction procedure contemplated by the gestational agreement  
9 that was performed before the party seeking to terminate the  
10 gestational agreement served upon the gestational carrier the  
11 written notice of termination of the gestational agreement. If the  
12 court so finds, and if all the requirements to validate a  
13 gestational agreement under this act are otherwise met, the  
14 termination of the gestational agreement shall be null and void, and  
15 the court shall enter an order reinstating the gestational agreement  
16 as if it had never been terminated and validating the gestational  
17 agreement. The court, taking into account the health and well-being  
18 of the gestational carrier and the child with which she is pregnant,  
19 may order any scientifically acceptable genetic or medical testing  
20 allowed by law to aid it in its findings, may assess the costs of  
21 such testing to the party or parties the court deems appropriate and  
22 may wait to make its ruling on the reinstatement and validation of  
23 the gestational agreement until after the birth of the child.

24

1 SECTION 16. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.15 of Title 10, unless there  
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 Unless otherwise provided by the Oklahoma Gestational Agreement  
5 Act, any proceedings conducted pursuant to this act will be governed  
6 by the Code of Civil Procedure of the State of Oklahoma. All such  
7 proceedings, any pleadings, motions, documents or records associated  
8 therewith and the identities of the parties to a gestational  
9 agreement are all to be kept confidential, and any such proceedings  
10 shall be held in closed court without the admittance of any person  
11 other than interested parties and their counsel. It is the intent  
12 of this section that the same standards of confidentiality,  
13 inspection and disclosure applied to cases of adoption in this state  
14 shall apply to the proceedings and papers related to gestational  
15 agreements under this act.

16 SECTION 17. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.16 of Title 10, unless there  
18 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 Venue and jurisdiction for all matters arising out of or related  
20 to a gestational agreement shall lie only in the district court of  
21 the county where the gestational carrier resided at the time the  
22 gestational agreement was entered into or in the district courts of  
23 Tulsa County or Oklahoma County. Upon the filing of a petition to  
24 validate gestational agreement, and regardless of any change in

1 residency of the gestational carrier, the court in which such  
2 petition was properly filed shall have continuing and exclusive  
3 jurisdiction over all matters arising out of or related to the  
4 gestational agreement until the date a child born to the gestational  
5 carrier during the period covered by the gestational agreement  
6 reaches one hundred eighty (180) days of age.

7 SECTION 18. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
8 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.17 of Title 10, unless there  
9 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

10 A. A gestational carrier may receive reimbursement for expenses  
11 and economic losses resulting from participation in the gestational  
12 carrier arrangement contemplated by a gestational agreement.

13 B. A gestational carrier may be paid a reasonable compensation  
14 for carrying a child pursuant to a gestational agreement. The  
15 compensation, if any, paid to a gestational carrier must be  
16 negotiated in good faith between the parties; the amount of such  
17 compensation must be set forth in the gestational agreement; and the  
18 compensation may in no manner be conditioned upon the purported  
19 quality or any genome-related traits of the sperm, eggs, gametes,  
20 embryos or resulting child; provided, that nothing in this section  
21 prohibits compensation that is conditioned on the number of embryos  
22 implanted, the number of assisted reproduction procedures undertaken  
23 for the gestational carrier to become pregnant, the number of  
24



1 children with which the gestational carrier becomes pregnant or the  
2 duration of the pregnancy.

3 SECTION 19. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.18 of Title 10, unless there  
5 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 A. Any one or more donors that will be supplying any gametes or  
7 embryos in connection with a gestational carrier arrangement may be,  
8 but are not required to be, a party to the gestational agreement,  
9 and any consents required of such donor or such donor's physician by  
10 Oklahoma law may be incorporated into the gestational agreement.

11 B. If one or more donors will be supplying any gametes or  
12 embryos in connection with a gestational carrier arrangement, any  
13 consents otherwise required by Oklahoma law to be filed with a court  
14 in connection with such donation may be filed with the court as part  
15 of the petition to validate gestational agreement, regardless of  
16 whether or not such consents are part of the gestational agreement.  
17 Filing such consents with the petition to validate shall be deemed  
18 to be compliance with any filing requirements for such consents  
19 otherwise required by Oklahoma law, including the provisions of  
20 Sections 552 through 556, inclusive, of Title 10 of the Oklahoma  
21 Statutes. If such consents are filed with the court as part of the  
22 petition to validate, then validation of the gestational agreement  
23 by the court shall satisfy any requirements otherwise set forth in  
24

1 Oklahoma law for a judge's approval, execution or acknowledgment of  
2 such consents.

3 C. This act shall not affect any other law regarding the  
4 allowance or prohibition of compensation paid to any donor for that  
5 donor's contribution of gametes or embryos.

6 SECTION 20. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
7 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.19 of Title 10, unless there  
8 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

9 No gamete or embryo to which the gestational carrier or the  
10 gestational spouse has contributed any genetic material may be used  
11 in the assisted reproduction procedure set forth in a gestational  
12 agreement covered by the Oklahoma Gestational Agreement Act. Any  
13 agreement which calls for the use of a gamete or embryo to which the  
14 gestational carrier or gestational spouse has contributed genetic  
15 material falls outside the applicability of this act.

16 SECTION 21. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.20 of Title 10, unless there  
18 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 Upon the birth of a child contemplated by a validated  
20 gestational agreement, the intended parents under such validated  
21 gestational agreement shall be listed as the parents on the child's  
22 certificate of birth that is to be filed with the state registrar of  
23 vital statistics as provided by Oklahoma law, and neither the  
24

1 gestational carrier nor any spouse of the gestational carrier if she  
2 is married shall be listed on said certificate of birth.

3 SECTION 22. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.21 of Title 10, unless there  
5 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 A. In the event that an intended parent predeceases the birth  
7 of a child contemplated by a validated gestational agreement, the  
8 terms and conditions of the gestational agreement shall remain in  
9 full force and effect, and upon birth the resulting child shall be  
10 delivered into the sole care and custody of the surviving intended  
11 parent, if an intended parent so survives. If there are no  
12 surviving intended parents, the child shall be delivered into the  
13 sole care and custody of the guardian nominated in the estate  
14 planning documents of the intended parents. If no such guardian  
15 will accept or is fit to accept the sole care and custody of the  
16 child, or if no valid estate planning documents of the intended  
17 parents are then in effect, the child shall be delivered into the  
18 sole care and custody of a guardian designated by the court as  
19 provided by Oklahoma law, and in such instances nothing in the  
20 Oklahoma Gestational Agreement Act shall prohibit a gestational  
21 carrier or gestational spouse from being designated by the court as  
22 the child's guardian.

23 B. Any child conceived by assisted reproduction and pursuant to  
24 the terms of a validated gestational agreement shall have all

1 testamentary and inheritance rights from the intended parents and  
2 shall have no testamentary or inheritance rights from the  
3 gestational carrier or any spouse of the gestational carrier if she  
4 is married. The intended parents shall have testamentary and  
5 inheritance rights from the resulting child as parents, and the  
6 gestational carrier and any spouse of the gestational carrier if she  
7 is married shall have no testamentary or inheritance rights from the  
8 resulting child as parents.

9 SECTION 23. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
10 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.22 of Title 10, unless there  
11 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

12 A. The marriage of a gestational carrier after she enters into  
13 a gestational agreement does not affect the gestational agreement.  
14 In such instances, the consent of the person who became the spouse  
15 of the gestational carrier after the gestational carrier entered  
16 into the gestational agreement is not required in order for the  
17 court to validate the gestational agreement, and such person need  
18 not be party to the validation proceedings. The spouse of the  
19 gestational carrier in such instances shall not be presumed to be  
20 the parent of any resulting child.

21 B. The divorce or separation of the gestational carrier and any  
22 spouse of the gestational carrier shall not affect the validation or  
23 enforceability of such gestational agreement or the ability of the  
24

1 court to validate such gestational agreement that otherwise complies  
2 with this act.

3 SECTION 24. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.23 of Title 10, unless there  
5 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 A. If a gestational agreement has been validated and if,  
7 because of a laboratory error or clinical error, the resulting child  
8 under such gestational agreement is not genetically related to one  
9 or more of the intended parents or one or more of the donors who  
10 donated to the intended parent or parents and if, in the absence of  
11 such error, the child should have been so genetically related, then  
12 the intended parents under the gestational agreement shall  
13 nonetheless be considered the parents of the child, unless a  
14 determination to the contrary is made by a court of competent  
15 jurisdiction in an action which may only be brought by one or more  
16 genetic parents of the resulting child within one hundred eighty  
17 (180) days after the birth of the child.

18 B. Nothing in the Oklahoma Gestational Agreement Act shall  
19 create, affect or diminish any cause of action that a person may  
20 have under Oklahoma law for a laboratory error or clinical error  
21 occurring as part of an assisted reproduction procedure.

22 SECTION 25. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
23 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.24 of Title 10, unless there  
24 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1       A. This section shall govern the breach of validated  
2 gestational agreements and any gestational agreements that have not  
3 been validated, but only to the extent those nonvalidated  
4 gestational agreements are otherwise enforceable under the Oklahoma  
5 Gestational Agreement Act.

6       B. In the event of a breach of a gestational agreement or  
7 noncompliance with the requirements of this act, the court shall  
8 determine the respective rights and obligations of the parties to  
9 the gestational agreement based solely on the evidence of the  
10 original intent of the parties and the provisions of this act.

11       C. Except as otherwise provided by this act or an express term  
12 of the gestational agreement, the gestational carrier, the  
13 gestational spouse and any intended parent shall be entitled to any  
14 remedy available at law or equity for breach of the gestational  
15 agreement or noncompliance with any requirement of this act.

16       D. Notwithstanding any breach of the gestational agreement, the  
17 remedy of specific performance shall not be available to the extent  
18 the ordering of such remedy would require the gestational carrier or  
19 any other party to be impregnated or undergo an assisted  
20 reproduction procedure.

21       E. The breach of the gestational agreement by any intended  
22 parent does not relieve the intended parents of the obligation to  
23 support a child born pursuant to the gestational agreement.

1 F. Unless otherwise provided by the gestational agreement, the  
2 court in any action for the alleged breach or the enforcement of a  
3 gestational agreement shall award costs, attorney fees and expert  
4 fees to the prevailing party.

5 SECTION 26. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
6 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 557.25 of Title 10, unless there  
7 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

8 Except as otherwise expressly provided by the Oklahoma  
9 Gestational Agreement Act, all other laws regarding parentage and  
10 the determination thereof remain in full force and effect.

11 SECTION 27. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
12 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
13 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
14 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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