Lotus Blossom Consulting Chicago, USA



indy Berkson, founder of Lotus Blossom Consulting, has guided hundreds of intended parents all around the world through the stressful demands of the infertility process by providing professional and compassionate assistance in dealing with the emotional, physical, and financial barriers involved with third-party reproduction abroad.

Mindy explains some of the things that people, who are considering alternative reproductive treatments, need to consider:

The role of the infertility consultant

Undergoing third-party reproduction is an emotionally, physically and financially draining process. Then throw in the cultural and legal differences when pursuing alternative family building options abroad and it is no wonder that individuals and couples are left feeling overwhelmed, confused and distraught.

The most important thing to consider when pursuing alternative child bearing treatments abroad is to build the foundation. An infertility consultant can be especially helpful in building this by helping clients in the following ways:

- Understand the differing healthcare systems
- Know about the financial barriers and possible incentives
- Find non-biased professionals
- Develop emotional tolerances for your given situation

Differing healthcare systems

It is especially important to understand the differences that exist in healthcare systems and how to use them to your advantage. There are ways to work within the system to minimise your financial risk when embarking on treatments abroad. For example, working with licensed insurance agents is the best way to analyse gaps in healthcare coverage.

The financial cost

Infertility treatment is expensive. It is imperative to plan and prepare for the end family goal and not just one cycle. For example, how many cycles of IVF are reasonable given a 10% or 20% chance of success before considering the next option which may include engaging an egg donor and increasing the chance of success to 60% or greater?

Non-biased professionals

Pulling together an unbiased multidisciplinary team of professionals, regardless of location, is another important aspect of accomplishing a treatment cycle. Members of the team should include: a reproductive endocrinologist, embryologist, financial and estate planner, licensed insurance agent, recruiting agency, egg donor, sperm donor, attorneys and a mental health professional.

A qualified infertility consultant should be able to organise this team with unbiased



Key staff

Founder: Mindy Berkson

Our services

- Third party reproduction
 - Egg donation
 - Sperm donation
- Financial planning consultation

 - Financial
- Insurance consultation
 - Drug benefit
 - Health insurance
 - Insurance for egg donors

Contact details

135 S. LaSalle Street **Suite 2100** Chicago, IL 60603

Tel: +1 847 881 2685 Fax: +1 847 881 2585

consultant@lotusblossomconsulting.

www.lotusblossomconsulting.com www.theinfertilityconsultant.com

referrals specific to your individual situation.

Emotional

I also suggest that clients set parameters for treatment options that suit them both physically and emotionally. For example, how many cycles of IVF can and will they endure before turning to a different treatment option that may yield a higher chance of success? Balancing hope with caution is essential in maintaining sanity and making non-emotional choices. Clients also need to understand in advance what questions to ask specific to their given circumstance before entering the doctor's office. The answers you get are only as good as the questions you ask.

Overall, a qualified infertility consultant should have all the resources and information necessary to educate you to be your own best advocate—helping you maximise your chances of success and minimise your financial expenditure.