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Sarah Jefford OAM (she/her) is a surrogacy and donor lawyer, living in Melbourne with her partner, Troy, and their two sons, Archie and Rafael. Sarah has been a practising lawyer for over 19 years and opened her own firm in 2016, practising in surrogacy and donor conception law.

Sarah was awarded the [Medal of the Order of Australia in 2023](#), for services to the law and her work with the surrogacy community. In 2024, Sarah was awarded a [Churchill Fellowship](#), to research best practice surrogacy frameworks to inform law reform in Australia.

Sarah and Troy conceived their first son, Archie, with the help of IVF treatment. After their second son Rafael was born, they considered their family complete. Sarah then became an egg donor and donated to several families.

Sarah was a traditional surrogate and delivered a baby for two dads in 2018. Her experience of surrogacy and donor conception motivated her to launch the [Australian Surrogacy Podcast](#), sharing stories from surrogates, intended parents and industry professionals, to support others on the surrogacy journey. The Podcast celebrated the 100th episode in 2021.

Sarah specialises in surrogacy and donor conception, or ‘family creation’ law. She is the only lawyer to practice exclusively in family creation law across Australia.

Sarah speaks regularly on issues of donor conception and surrogacy. Through her work and advocacy, she promotes best practice surrogacy arrangements, the best interests of children and the bodily autonomy of women.

Drawing on her experiences as an IVF mum, egg donor, surrogate and lawyer, Sarah wrote [More Than Just a Baby: A Guide to Surrogacy for Intended Parents and Surrogates](#).

Sarah says the idea for the book came shortly after she gave birth as a surrogate. “I felt so many powerful and amazing emotions and wondered whether what I was feeling was normal. I remember thinking ‘there really should be a book about this.’ So, I wrote that book.”

Sarah is passionate about positive and empowered surrogacy arrangements that focus on the best interests of children and the longevity of the relationship between the surrogate and the intended parents. “Surrogacy relationships are the most complex of relationships that we can enter in our lifetime. I want intended parents and surrogates to understand the complexity and gravity of those relationships so they can have a positive, lifelong relationship.”

Sarah is respected and recognised for her work in the surrogacy community. In 2019 and 2022 she was a finalist in the Thought Leader for the Women in Law Awards, and in 2020 she was recognised as a finalist Innovator of the Year in the Australian Law Awards.

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