

The background of the entire page is a bright, clear blue sky. Two large, white dandelion seed heads are the central focus, each on a tall, green stem. The dandelion on the left is slightly larger and more fully developed. The one on the right is slightly smaller and appears to be in the process of blowing away, with a few seeds already detached and floating in the air to its right. The overall mood is peaceful and nostalgic.

Find a Grandparent
where generations meet

Guidelines for Families

Guidelines for Families V5 - April 2015

Find a Grandparent Pty Ltd

ACN 153 667 380

Contact us

Email: feedback@findagrandparent.org.au

Address: 2/90 Denning Street
South Coogee NSW 2034

Table of Contents

Welcome to Find a Grandparent	4
<hr/>	
General Information	5
<hr/>	
Screening of Surrogate Grandparents	5
Site Monitoring	5
Suggestions and Complaints	5
Finding Surrogate Grandparents	6
Getting to Know a Surrogate Grandparent	7
<hr/>	
Some Things to Keep in Mind	7
Sample Questions for a Meeting	8
How can Families Acknowledge the Voluntary Grandparent?	8

Welcome to Find a Grandparent

The primary aim of our service is to connect you with a surrogate grandparent with the purpose of expanding your family. As part of this, the surrogate grandparent will also get in contact with your children. *Find a Grandparent* has developed these guidelines for parents to assist you in dealing with surrogate grandparents.

I hope you find this document helpful. We welcome any feedback you might want to provide, so that we can improve these guidelines or the service of *Find a Grandparent*.

Now I wish you good luck and hope that you will soon find a suitable addition to your family on the *Find a Grandparent* site.

Cate

General Information

You have signed up on *Find a Grandparent* to find a surrogate grandparent for your family. Surrogate grandparents come to you on a voluntary basis. They are not nannies or babysitters but come regularly and want to establish a close relationship with your family.

By now you should have read our Terms and Conditions. If you haven't read them please take the time to do so now.

Screening of Surrogate Grandparents

Find a Grandparent screens potential surrogate grandparent members by requesting a current National Police Check, which must not show any sexual offence or other offence against a person under 18 years. This also includes current pending charges. As we only sight a copy of this Police Check we ask you to sight the original document during your first meeting.

Site Monitoring

Find a Grandparent does not monitor our members' entries on the site on a regular basis. However, we will address concerns brought to our attention by members of the site, visitors of the site or otherwise.

Suggestions and Complaints

Should you have any suggestions or complaints, please don't hesitate to contact us. We always welcome your feedback and we will try to resolve any issues you might have in relation to our service as soon as possible.

You can contact us either via the contact form on the *Find a Grandparent* site, or by sending us an email to: feedback@findagrandparent.org.au.

Finding Surrogate Grandparents

You might decide that you want to help us finding seniors from your area who are interested in becoming a surrogate grandparent, especially if there are no surrogate grandparent members from your area at present.

During the sign-up process there was the option to choose that you want us to send flyers to libraries close to your home to let interested seniors know that there is a family living nearby that is looking for a surrogate grandparent. Please let us know if you know of a particular venue that you want us to send flyers to.

We are also happy to send you some flyers that you can distribute in senior citizen centres, community centres or retirement villages close to you.

Another option to attract interest is to ask a local newspaper if they are interested in featuring your family and your search for a surrogate grandparent in a story. We will assist you if you decide to pursue this option. Typically we write an article about your family and *Find a Grandparent*, and provide this to your local newspaper. Should the editor be interested, then he/she normally follows up with an interview.

We are always keen to help our families to find surrogate grandparents as quickly as possible so if you are interested in any of our above suggestions or if you have any other suggestions, please let us know by email to feedback@findagrandparent.org.au.

Getting to Know a Surrogate Grandparent

We recommend you to get to know a potential surrogate grandparent well before committing to a relationship. There is no obligation for either side to continue seeing each other. If you think that there is no real connection and you would like to stop the contact, then politely tell the surrogate grandparent. Please be mindful when doing that and don't hurt their feelings. Equally, please respect the wish of the surrogate grandparent should they wish to stop meeting with you.

Some Things to Keep in Mind

The following are some general recommendations that you might want to keep in mind especially for your first meetings with the potential surrogate grandparents:

- Be conscious and careful when dealing with persons you haven't met before. Use your common sense.
- Do not give out personal information too lightly.
- *Find a Grandparent* suggests that the first meeting should take place without children at a public place (e.g. a cafe or park).
- We suggest that the second meeting should be with the children but also at a public place.
- We suggest the first meeting in your home only once your whole family has met the surrogate grandparent and all of you agree that this is the right person for you.
- Do not forget to sight the National Police Check.
- We believe that it is also helpful to talk to the family and friends of the surrogate grandparent to obtain further insight into the personality and the background of the surrogate grandparent.
- Above all use your common sense.
- Remember, surrogate grandparents are NOT employed by *Find a Grandparent*.

For your benefit, and as a reminder, *Find a Grandparent* will also send these recommendations to you every time when an initial contact is established between a surrogate grandparent and your family.

Sample Questions for a Meeting

The following are some suggested questions you might want to ask when meeting with a surrogate grandparent.

- Why do you want to be a surrogate grandparent?
- What did you like about our profile?
- What experiences do you have with children?
- Can you describe a positive experience you had with children?
- Can you describe a negative experience you had with children?
- Talk about your views on raising children, e.g. discipline, giving sweets.
- How much time do you want to spend with our family?
- What expectations do you have in regards to becoming a surrogate grandparent?
- Let the surrogate grandparent know your views relating to alcohol and drugs.

How can Families Acknowledge the Voluntary Grandparent?

The grandparents that register here come to their "adopted" family on a voluntary basis. They want a connection to a family and they like to spend time with them. The following list shows some possibilities how you can let the grandparent belong to your family:

- inviting the grandparent to the children's birthday parties
- saying "thank you" to the grandparent
- getting the child/children to give the grandparent a call on their birthday and maybe paint a picture or do some craft for them on special occasions like birthdays and Christmas