



Shirley Eve Levitan, BSc, LLB

Cy and Ruby's Act - How new Ontario parentage legislation will affect your ART patients

Shirley has been practicing law in Toronto since 1988, with an emphasis on family law for almost twenty five years, and fertility law since 1996. She is a member of the Bars of Ontario (1988) and New York State (1991). Shirley received her undergraduate degree from the University of Toronto in 1981, and her law degree from the University of Ottawa in 1987. Shirley was a panel member for the Office of the Children's Lawyer in Ontario for 6 years, and a licensee for private adoption. She is a former Chair of Collaborative Practice Toronto. In the context of fertility law, Shirley has worked with clinics, hospitals, intended parents, egg/sperm donors and gestational carriers. She has been invited to speak at conferences and seminars in both Canada and the US, including the Ontario Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the National Judges Institute (Ontario), the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, the University of Toronto, Osgoode Hall Law School, the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, and the American Academy of Assisted Reproductive Technology Attorneys, of which she is an elected Fellow. Shirley is one of the few lawyers in Ontario who has extensive experience in both family law and fertility law, and as a result, was asked to assist with reviewing and revising Bill 137 (Cy and Ruby's Act), which amends Ontario's current *Children's Law Reform Act*.



Shirley has worked with all manner of reproductive technology arrangements, and ensures the required agreements conform with the changing legal landscape in Canada. She is a leading Canadian lawyer with respect to preparing and attending to court and government applications dealing with local, cross border, national and international, birth registration issues that arise in the context of assisted reproductive technology, and is the first lawyer in Ontario to have obtained a parentage declaration in a surrogacy situation in which the intended parents have no genetic connection to the child.

Shirley is the current Co-Chair of the Administrative Special Interest Group of the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society.

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