

News

Finland opens door to surrogacy

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Image: YLE / Seppo Sarkkinen

The National Advisory Board on Social Welfare and Health Care Ethics (ETENE) has greenlit surrogate motherhood, but only in some cases.

Markku Lehto, who chairs the board operating under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, says surrogacy could be permitted when a woman is unable to carry a child for medical reasons.

Surrogacy, an arrangement where a woman carries and delivers a child for another couple or person, is outlawed in Finland. It is, however, practised in a few other European countries.

The advisory board emphasises that legislative changes are needed to protect the rights of childless couples. For example, problems may arise if a surrogate mother refuses to hand over her baby after birth.

Lehto calls for the Ministry of Justice to look into the legal implications of surrogacy.

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