The Debate: BATTLE FOR BABY M

Today's debate includes our opinion that surrogate motherhood cannot be banned, but states must pass laws regulating such arrangements, an opposing view from the District of Columbia, other views from Georgia, Illinois, and New York, and voices from across the USA.

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In the absence of legal regulation, a would-be father will place a cash deposit with a surrogate motherhood agency. The agency will go to its list of mother-applicants — women who can really use the money and who want to do something good for a childless family. But since under my plan there is no enforceable contract, when the baby is born the surrogate mother can decide to keep it and forfeit the deposited money.

No sheriff can snatch it away from her. She gets the money only if she decides to hand the child over to the biological father. The infant winds up in whichever family wants it the most. No lawsuits, no legislation, no criminals, just a miracle coming into the world — a new, wanted child.