

Italian woman returns mixed-race baby to surrogate

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After faking a pregnancy to fool her family, an Italian woman discovered a baby she bought from a young Romanian was of mixed race and gave it back three days later, Italian media said Saturday.

The baby's biological mother, the "fake" mother and a Moroccan man who allegedly served as an intermediary in the arrangement have been arrested.

The 35-year-old woman allegedly paid 20,000 euros (around \$22,000 dollars) for the baby, who was born to the Romanian woman after a short relationship with a man from Mali, according to press reports.

Investigators were alerted in Latina, south of Rome, after the two women called [local authorities](#) in February asking how to register a baby born at home. Authorities grew suspicious after the women did not turn up for a scheduled meeting.

When police went to question the adoptive mother, she said she had faked the pregnancy, using latex belly prostheses bought on the internet. Her partner was in prison and she had recently undergone two miscarriages, the papers reported.

When she discovered the baby was of [mixed race](#), however, the [woman](#) didn't know how to explain the baby's skin colour to her family and friends.

Police found the baby girl with the biological father, who works in Rome. She has been placed in foster care but may return to her father.

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