



# Substituted parenting:

What does this mean for parents with learning disabilities in the family court context?

Nadine Tilbury and Beth Tarleton (2023)





## What is 'substituted parenting'?



Substituted parenting is when parents get a lot of support.

Professionals say that it is too much support.

Professionals say this is harmful for children.

Children can be removed from their parents.



Other words for 'substitute' are 'replaced' and when someone else 'takes over'. For example when a footballer is sent off and a substitute is brought onto a football pitch.



It is difficult for parents to control how workers are with their children.

Parents can find it hard sharing their concerns about how workers are with their children.



## What can parents do?

Parents should talk to an advocate or trusted friend or family member if they are worried about how workers are with their children.



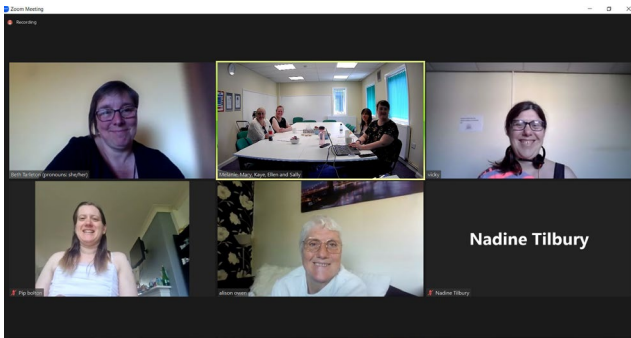
## How can professionals avoid substituted parenting?

Parents need good support that meets their needs. Workers should be open minded and flexible in their approach.

Good support is working with parents not taking over.



Workers should make sure that children go to their parents for help and attention.



## Written by the Substituted Parenting project Parents Advisory Group:

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Full report:

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/sps/documents/wtpn/SP%20Report.pdf>

Executive summary:

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/sps/documents/wtpn/SP%20Exec%20Summary.pdf>

Easy Read:

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/sps/documents/wtpn/SP%20Easy%20Read.pdf>

Policy briefing:

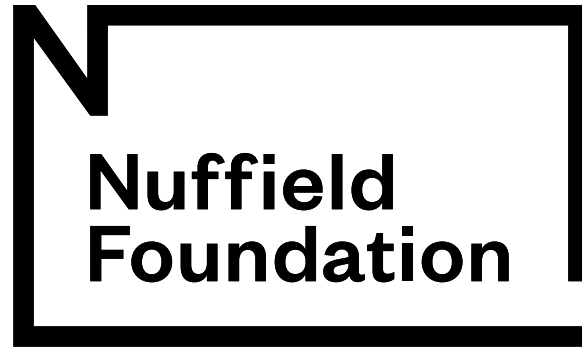
<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/sps/documents/wtpn/SP%20Policy%20Brief.pdf>

Film for parents and professionals:

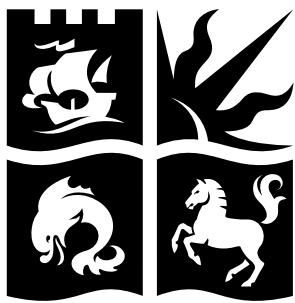
<https://youtu.be/44YfoV0nV1U>







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