Custodial and parental rights of individuals with disabilities

In this edition of reSearch we explore the topic of parental and custodial abilities of individuals with disabilities and their rights under current state and federal policies. reSearch was originally created as a vehicle to further explore disability related topics presented by patrons through our information service via phone, mail, email, and our chat-based reference service. In March, NARIC received a chat request for information regarding parental rights and adoption:


Information specialists directed the patron toward information and legal resources related to custody and parental rights of parents with disabilities and their children.

Research on parenting children with disabilities is prevalent. The search string “parents with disabilities” produces over 1,000 results—most have nothing to do with parents who themselves have disabilities, but rather parents whose children have disabilities. Locating information on custodial and parental rights of parents with disabilities proved to be more challenging. Much of the information found was related to specifically to parents who have intellectual or psychiatric disabilities. We chose not to include information on social supports and/or programs geared toward parents with disabilities (i.e. parents with intellectual or mental disability). Rather, we chose to focus on custodial and parental rights (i.e. adoption, child protection, custody, foster care, legislation, etc.).

The research presented in this issue provides a “snapshot” of custodial and parental rights of parents and grandparents with disabilities. Combined search terms included: parents with disabilities, rights of disabled parents, parental rights, custody, disabled parents, and parenting with a disability. A listing of approximately 70 additional descriptor terms between the NARIC, CIRRIE, ERIC, and PubMed databases can be found at the end of this document. A search of the REHABDATA database resulted in 28 documents published between 1983 and 2008. A search of CIRRIE and ERIC databases resulted in three documents between 1999 and 2005 and five documents between 1981 and 2005, respectively. Finally, a search of the PubMed database resulted in 10 documents between 1994 and 2008. The complete citations are included in this research brief.

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Full-text copies of these documents may be available through NARIC’s document delivery service.

To order any of the documents listed, please note the NARIC Accession Number (starts with a J, O, or R) and call an information specialist at 800/346-2742.

You may also order online at www.naric.com/services/requestform.cfm. There is a charge of five cents for copying and shipping with a $5 minimum on all orders. International shipping fees may apply.
In addition to document searches, we searched our NIDRR Program Database to locate grantees/projects related to custodial and parental rights of individuals with disabilities. The search resulted in eight NIDRR funded projects — three currently funded and five which have completed their research activities. Project information and their publications are offered as additional resources for our patrons.

A Mixed Methods Study of Parenting, Children, and Recovery in Mothers with Severe Psychiatric Disabilities.
Project Number: H133F080009
Phone: 508/856-8712
Email: joanne.nicholson@umassmed.edu

National Center for Parents with Disabilities and Their Families
Project Number: H133A080034
Phone: 510/848-1112
Email: tlg@lookingglass.org
www.lookingglass.org

Parent-Infant Interaction Project (PIIP)
Project Number: H133G080132
Phone: 503/725-4687
Email: munsonl@pdx.edu

The following projects have completed their research activities:

Project Number: H133G60036
Toll Free: 800/644-2666
Email: tlg@lookingglass.org
www.lookingglass.org

Evaluation of Barriers to Delivery of Rehabilitative Services to Infants and Toddlers in the Custody of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.
Project Number: H133F050018
Public Contact Phone: 312/641-2505, ext. 41
Email: bruhn@uiuc.edu

The Parenting Options Project: A Development Project for Parents with Psychiatric Disabilities.
Project Number: H133G70079
Phone: 508/856-8721
Email: joanne.nicholson@umassmed.edu
www.umassmed.edu/pop

Parents with Disabilities and Their Adolescent Children.
Project Number: H133G990130
Toll Free: 800/644-2666
Email: rolkin@lookingglass.org
www.lookingglass.org

Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Improving the Functioning of Families Who Have Members with Disabilities.
Project Number: H133B30070
Phone: 785/864-7600
Email: beach@dole.lsi.ukans.edu
www.lsi.ukans.edu/Beach/Beachhp.htm

Documents from NARIC’s REHABDATA search listed are listed below:

2008

NARIC Accession Number: O17447
ABSTRACT: Article addresses the issue of the removal of children from the custody of parents with disabilities. The seven sections present a case for sweeping legislative changes to protect the children in families with parental disability from unnecessary removals and the accompanying trauma. Section I discusses family and dependency laws in general, and the history of parenting with a disability in America. Section II looks at the affected population, data we have collected on the demographics of that group and rates of removal. Section III outlines the identified causes of removals and Section IV examines the effects on children. Section V reviews the state legislation that has been developed specifically to combat the problems in practice and strategy and unintentionally applicable federal legislation. Section VI proposes model elements for fu-
ture remedial legislation if it is to be useful and discusses the possibility for a federal versus state fix. Section VII concludes with a brief examination of developments at the international level.

2007


NARIC Accession Number: J54237

Abstract: Study examined how external incentives impacted performance on the Word Memory Test (WMT), a measure of effort, by comparing groups with different external incentives. Performance on the WMT was assessed in a group of adults with traumatic brain injury (TBI), tested as part of workers’ compensation, disability, or personal injury, who stood to gain financially by appearing impaired on testing. In contrast, parents ordered by the court to undergo a parenting assessment were highly motivated to do their best on the cognitive tests because their goal was to regain custody of their children. Consistent with these assumptions, 98.3 percent of the 118 parents seeking child custody passed the WMT effort test but the pass rate on the WMT was only 60 percent among the 774 adults with mild TBI. The WMT failure rate in the mild TBI group was 23 times higher than in the group of parents seeking custody. WMT failure was twice as frequent in the mild TBI group compared to those with more severe TBI. It is concluded that such differences in failure rates on the WMT test cannot be explained by differences in cognitive skills, but are explained by differences in external incentives.

2006


NARIC Accession Number: O16944

Abstract: This guide is intended to help parents with disabilities understand and protect their rights during the child adoption process. Sections address how to start the process, types of custody, special laws which apply to prospective parents with disabilities, who are involved in the process, basic steps in the adoption process, and special steps prospective adoptive parents with disabilities can take during the home study phase and other key phases in the adoption process.


NARIC Accession Number: O16943

Abstract: This guide is intended to help parents with disabilities understand and protect their rights in a child dependency case. Sections address when a parent’s right to their child can be terminated, the steps that lead to termination or parental rights, which parts of the state government are involved in the dependency process, and what special steps parents with disabilities need to take at each phase of the process and what special laws apply to them.


NARIC Accession Number: O16940

Abstract: This guide is intended to help parents with disabilities understand and protect their rights in a child custody case. Sections address when and how to request custody, types of custody arrangements, steps involved in securing a custody arrangement through stipulation or judgment, who may be involved in a family law proceeding addressing custody, evaluations, special steps that parents with disabilities may want to take at each phase of the process, and special laws that apply to parents with disabilities.


NARIC Accession Number: O16945

Abstract: Document presents a collection of annotations; law review articles, including comments and notes; case law summaries (by state); and federal case summaries involving parents with disabilities.

NARIC Accession Number: O16652


ABSTRACT: This brief examines state policies regarding termination of parental rights (TPR), focusing on the extent to which states use disability as grounds for termination. An analysis of legal documents revealed that many states include disability inappropriately in their TPR statutes, including using inappropriate terminology to refer to a person’s disability, using imprecise definitions of disability, and often focusing on disability rather than behavior. Currently, 36 states have specific grounds for termination for mental illness, 32 have grounds for intellectual or developmental disability, 18 have grounds for emotional disability, and 8 have grounds for physical disability. Of the states that do not include disability-related language in their TPR statutes, they all have general provisions that would allow TPR of parents with disabilities, though such a TPR would focus on the parent’s abusive or neglectful behavior rather than disability status.

2005


NARIC Accession Number: O16022


ABSTRACT: Fact sheet addresses child custody issues for parents with psychiatric disabilities. It offers advice on how to stay mentally healthy and how to deal with the legal system for parents with mental illness who has been removed from their custody by the local child welfare agency.


NARIC Accession Number: O16947

ABSTRACT: Author, who is an attorney, describes how she assists parents with disabilities, advocates, and professionals when they are involved in child custody litigation. She includes information on legal resources for parents in the United States and in the United Kingdom.


NARIC Accession Number: O16942

ABSTRACT: Newsletter includes items about the activities of Through the Looking Glass (TLG), an organization that provides research, training, and services for families in which a child, parent, or grandparent has a disability. In this issue: TLG’s resources for parents with intellectual disabilities, new training module for occupational therapists, 2005 college scholarships, custody and legal resources, a new book on pregnancy and birth, and systems development in Kansas.

2003


NARIC Accession Number: J52969

ABSTRACT: Article examines the barriers that parents with disabilities face in child custody cases. Examples are provided of biased assumptions in the judicial approaches to four broad classes of disability: physical, sensory, cognitive, and psychiatric. Absent or poorly articulated statutory and professional guidelines for conducting child custody evaluations, the relative unavailability of legal services, attitudinal and accessibility barriers, and lack of disability awareness, knowledge, and skill in family courts are described as evidence of a legal structure that has not addressed bias against parents with disabilities. Suggestions are made for improving the functioning of family court to provide realistic, positive options and accommodations for parents with disabilities and their children.
NARIC Accession Number: J45396
ABSTRACT: Presents findings from research examining court practices in Australia regarding child protection matters involving parents with disabilities. Results indicated that parents with a disability often had no representation in courts. Concerns were more likely to be raised regarding neglect, or sexual or emotional abuse, when parental disability was noted. Formal court interventions only infrequently made recommendations regarding support, training, and advice such parents needed in order to retain care of their children.

2000

NARIC Accession Number: J40853
ABSTRACT: Article on discrimination faced by parents with mental retardation in statutory child protection proceedings. The authors briefly review the literature on rates of child removal and circumstances in which removal is predetermined. Political and social conditions underlying discrimination are discussed, including outmoded and stereotypic beliefs about persons with mental retardation; an expectation that families should be autonomous and independent, so that parents who are themselves dependent should not be heads of families; an emphasis on individual responsibility, leading to false attribution of parenting difficulties to the disability rather than to poverty and social factors; and a focus on individual rights, leading to an adversarial conflict between parental rights and the rights of children.

1997

NARIC Accession Number: O12287

NARIC Accession Number: J34518
ABSTRACT: Reviews parental disability literature published since 1980 and explores factors associated with processes and outcomes of parenting by persons with physical, cognitive, or sensory disabilities. Consists of two major sections. The first considers conceptual problems associated with defining and understanding how chronic illness or disability influences parental role functioning and families. The second section presents findings from empirical studies dealing with physical, cognitive, or sensory disabilities in parents. Concludes with a discussion of the implications for research and counseling practice with this population.

1996

NARIC Accession Number: O12660
ABSTRACT: Paper on adoption agency views regarding adoption of children by persons with physical disabilities. Data are from 31 responses to a survey of executive directors of California adoption agencies, and from analysis of the agencies’ written policies. Participants were asked about the number and frequency of adoption placements with parents with disabilities, the presence and frequency of disability training, and
agency characteristics, and regression analyses were performed to assess the relationships between these variables. It was found that the variables correlating most significantly with placement of children with disabled parents were adoption fees, disability training, agency expectations of parents with disabilities, and prior placement of children with parents with disabilities.

Herman, A. (1996). *Bringing up Donald: Challenges and solutions for parents with disabilities.* *New Mobility, 7*(36).

ABSTRACT: Describes the various challenges parents with disabilities can face while raising non-disabled children. Focuses on a family in which both parents are wheelchair dependent for mobility. Provides information on adaptations and coping mechanisms they used from the time of their child’s birth through his teens. Lists U.S. and Canadian resources for parenting.

1994


ABSTRACT: Discusses the impact of parental head injury on children and examines issues in assessing children’s reactions and choosing appropriate interventions. The first section outlines the specific types of psychosocial difficulties that may be experienced by the family following a head trauma in a family member. The second section reviews the impact of other parental psychiatric and neurologic disorders on children. The third section discusses the impact of parental brain injury on children, including the mediators of children’s risk after parental brain injury, typical responses by children to specific symptoms of a brain injured parent, and suggested interventions. The third section outlines areas to investigate when screening for problems in children and when screening for general family dysfunction. Two case examples are used throughout the article to illustrate these assessment and intervention issues.


ABSTRACT: Paper discussing a paradox in ADA policy—the rights of a child to be protected from sexual and physical abuse, and neglect, and the rights of a parent with disabilities to raise their child. The article considers three scenarios: parents who are fully able to care for their children but are denied that right through stereotypical assumptions of disabilities; parents who are mentally capable of child-rearing but lack personal assistance for the physical requirements of child care; and parents with mental disabilities who without support could be at risk for child neglect. The impact of the ADA and various state laws upon these situations are considered.

1993


ABSTRACT: This paper examines a paradox in child protection law—the rights of a child to be protected from sexual and physical abuse, and neglect, and the rights of a parent with disabilities to raise their child. The article considers three scenarios: parents who are fully able to care for their children but are denied that right through stereotypical assumptions of disabilities; parents who are mentally capable of child-rearing but lack personal assistance for the physical requirements of child care; and parents with mental disabilities who without support could be at risk for child neglect. The impact of the ADA and various state laws upon these situations are considered.
ABSTRACT: Examines family policy in Canada as it pertains to mothers with disabilities. Equality rights for Canadian citizens are established in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms (1982). Section 15 of the Charter defines equality as accommodation of difference and a fair share of society’s resources for groups who have been historically disadvantaged. While these principles should mean that women with disabilities will have appropriate parenting and family supports available, disablist policies, insufficient funding, and bureaucratic practices continue to discriminate against mothers with disabilities. The author argues that where mothers with disabilities have experienced such discrimination, they are denied their rights and entitlements as Canadian citizens.


NARIC Accession Number: J24996

ABSTRACT: Study exploring the extent and focus of research concerned with the handicaps experienced by parents with disabilities and their non-disabled dependents. A literature search was conducted using family, psychological, sociological, rehabilitation, and social work databases covering Europe, North America, and Australia. A total of 93 references were found over a 15-year publication period extending back to 1975. Twenty publications addressed general disabilities, 27 addressed specific physical disabilities, and 46 addressed mental disabilities. The main topics were effects of the parental disability on the child’s behavior; child development, including communication; impact on family life in general; issues of parental behavior and capabilities; and therapeutic or service approaches to specific disabilities or behaviors. The majority of publications related to the area of mental disability and were concerned with the effects of parental disability on the child’s development. Few publications focused on the handicaps facing parents with disabilities and their effects on the parenting role as experienced by the parent.


NARIC Accession Number: J26022

ABSTRACT: Qualitative study exploring the experience of child-rearing and parenthood by parents with learning difficulties. The purpose was to demonstrate why parental competence can be assessed only in the context of the individuals’ life history. The study involved in-depth interviews with 20 parents or sets of parents. This article presents a summary description of these families followed by a detailed analysis of the personal profile of one parent. Two perspectives, one focusing on deficiency and the other on capacity, are applied in the analysis to illustrate how these contrasting views each lead to a different appreciation of the individual and can bias the opinions and response of social services professionals.


NARIC Accession Number: R06795

ABSTRACT: This book describes the experiences of sons and daughters who have a parent with a brain injury: (1) experiences at the hospital (the injury, the coma, reasons to visit); (2) conspiracy of silence (whether the parent would live or die and whether the child could handle the situation); (3) how parents changed (changes in behavior, physical changes, and what independence is); (4) life at home (coming home to change, siblings, teaching parents, and new alliances); (5) the reactions of and explanations to friends (who knows what, fitting in at school, and reactions); and (6) moving on; An appendix includes a message for professionals, recommending that they use the guide to gain insights into the emotions and reactions of sons and daughters. Resources are attached.


NARIC Accession Number: J26164
ABSTRACT: Adoption offers one option for individuals with disabilities to increase their family size. Many people with physical disabilities face barriers when trying to conceive on their own, so adoption is a good alternative. The article examines the adoption process for people with disabilities, looking at why individuals with disabilities might want to adopt and what channels they would have to go through. The adoption process includes the orientation meeting and a home study. International adoption requires that individuals meet both local and foreign adoption requirements. Types of adoption include public agencies, private agencies, independent adoption, interstate placement of children, open adoptions, and unidentified (closed) adoptions. Not all adoption agencies provide equivalent services, so individuals must consider what they are looking for and what the agency accepts. Because the availability of Caucasian infants has diminished severely over the past several years, people are tending to adopt infants from other countries. However, there are many harder-to-place children in the United States available for adoption. They include children with special needs, sibling groups, older children, and children of minority or mixed race.

1990

Accardo, P.J., & Whitman, B.Y. (1990). When a parent is mentally retarded. *Paul H. Brookes Publishing Company*, Baltimore, MD, www.brookespublishing.com. NARIC Accession Number: R05535 ABSTRACT: This publication addresses the issue of the quality of care of children in the homes of parents with mental disabilities and the conflict of the right of persons with mental disabilities to procreate and society’s right to see that the basic needs of children are met. The book presents and discusses the topics of mentally retarded parents in the community, agency surveys and needs assessment questionnaires in epidemiological probes, genetics and mental retardation, parenting skills training for adults with mental retardation and other educational interventions, problems and diagnoses of children of parents with mental retardation, the pediatrician’s role, the right to marry for persons with mental retardation, parental rights of persons with mental retardation, and ethical issues in parenting by persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

1985

(1985). Physically disabled parents’ rights. *Mental and Physical Disability Law Reporter, 9*(6), 435-436. NARIC Accession Number: J07316 ABSTRACT: Describes two court decisions involving the parental rights of mothers with physical disabilities. The first mother, who was permanently disabled with multiple sclerosis and in a wheelchair, was awarded parental rights after an appeals court reversed an original decision, despite her inability to care for her child physically. In the second case, an appeals court affirmed a lower court decision that took away custody of a child from his mother, who was subject to uncontrolled petit mal seizures and was emotionally unstable and immature.

1983

Johnson, P.L. (1983). *Groups for parents with developmental disabilities.* NARIC Accession Number: O08979 ABSTRACT: A listing and description of group activities for developmentally disabled parents. Five activities are fully described; they address: child development, self-esteem enhancement, meal planning and budgeting, stress management, and child discipline. Step-by-step instructions are given for performing the activities, as are experiences of the authors in using them. The author discusses the experiences he encountered in adapting and using these activities, which he calls a mixed bag of success and failure, in terms of research implications on instructional methodologies as they concern the teaching of abstract concepts, the entangling issues of foster care, court assignations, and parenting, and the problems attendant to conducting such activities in concert with welfare functions.

**ABSTRACT:** In process (CIRRIE abstract)


PMID #: 14699788 (Linked to PubMed abstract from CIRRIE)

**ABSTRACT:** In the last decade, increasing divorce rates, a joint custodial concept, and a deficient legal situation of non-married fathers have been involuntarily provoking cases of a parent with child custody alienating that child in order to exclude the other parent from visitations and educational participation. Medical certificates are frequently of fateful importance in child custody litigation. In a mail survey conducted in six German cities, N = 133 child psychiatrists were asked about the frequency in which they issue such certificates, what certificates contained, what recommendations were made, and where possible the reasons why the other parent was not included in the diagnostic process. According to the results 74.4 percent of those surveyed were asked to issue such medical certificates at least once in the year prior to the survey; 42 percent of the psychiatrists stating that the other parent never or only sometimes participated. The symptoms most frequently certified were behavioral disorders (46 percent), aggression (34 percent), problems in school/ADD (28 percent), anxiety (26 percent), bed-wetting (23 percent), depression (21 percent), and psychosomatic reactions (20 percent). Outlining the characteristics of alienated children and of alienating parents, of “natural” and of “induced” stress-symptoms in children after parental separation; the article provides physicians and institutions of the health system with support to prevent medical certificates being abused in child custody litigation. Some fundamental guidelines are presented as to what aspects and should be explored and which persons referred to before certificates are issued to parents, social workers or judges of family law courts.


ERIC #: EJ583823 (ERIC abstract from CIRRIE)

**ABSTRACT:** Five cases of parenthood of persons with intellectual disability were reinvestigated about two years after a previous German study. Problem-centered interviews were conducted with mothers or fathers with an intellectual disability and with the caretakers. Results show developmental disability in two of six children and, in some cases, psychological disorders.


ERIC #: EJ830037

**ABSTRACT:** It is unlikely that every parent with intellectual disability comes under the scrutiny of the care and protection system. That many do is evident in the
figures from a number of countries that report between 30 and 40 percent of the children of parents with intellectual disability are removed from their parents’ care and placed in protective custody, in foster care, or in a residential setting. Recent developments, particularly in the United Kingdom and Australia, in seeking permanent placement for children away from their parents earlier rather than later means that many of these children will not be reunited with their parents. As long as the prevalent attitude of current and future parental incompetence continues to exist, having a child taken away—permanently—remains a real possibility for many parents with intellectual disability. In this article, the authors highlight their concern about this situation, as well as their concern that little is known about the potentially devastating outcomes for these parents when their children are taken away by the State.

2007

ERIC #: EJ764992
ABSTRACT: Background: As a sequel to a report by the Health Council of the Netherlands on contraception in persons with intellectual disabilities (IDs), a fierce debate about parenthood by such persons occurred, in which a lack of knowledge about parenting competences became clear. Therefore, the Ministry of Health commissioned a study investigating examples of “successful parenthood” by persons with IDs. Methods: In conformity with the literature and with legal categories, we defined “successful parenthood” as “good enough parenthood”, meaning no indications for child abuse and/or neglect, no dealings with child protection agencies and no legal custody. We combined a nationwide quantitative questionnaire study with a qualitative interview study. Questionnaires were sent to all institutions involved in caring for persons with ID, interviews were held with “good enough” parents and their professional caregivers, selected on the basis of returned questionnaires. Results: Parenthood occurs in around 1.5 percent of persons with ID in the Netherlands and is mostly restricted to those with mild handicaps. In total, 51 percent of the cases were regarded, by caregivers, as not-good-enough parenthood, 33 percent were clearly good enough and 16 percent were doubtful. Predicting factors included the ability and the willingness to follow advice, the quality of the social network and the acceptance of parenting in the community. However, there is not one decisive predicting factor; particularly, the predictive value of the IQ alone is small. Conclusions: A general policy of discouragement of parenthood, as advocated by the Dutch Ministry, is not supported by our results; moreover, it would probably be impossible and have negative effects on social acceptance of parents with ID. The overall conclusion from the study therefore is that some kind of balancing model, in which positive and negative factors are weighed, may be useful to and need for support.

1998

ERIC #: ED418555
Available in full text at: www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/contentdelivery/servlet/ERICServlet?accno=ED418555
ABSTRACT: This feature issue focuses on strategies to support parents who have cognitive limitations to be successful in raising their children. Articles include: (1) “Encounters with Entropy: Marge’s Journey from System to System” (John Franz and Pat Miles) that tells a fictional story of a mother with disabilities to illustrate the tendency of human service systems to operate independently of one another, to stay locked into rigidly structured responses, and to avoid collaborative responses; (2) “Helping Parents Be Parents” (Howard Mandeville and Polly Snodgrass); (3) “Mothers with Developmental Disabilities: Common Issues and Needs” (Bette Keltner); (4) “Parents with Cognitive Limitations: What Do We Know about Providing Support?” (Lynda Anderson and K. Charlie Lakin); (5) “Perpetuating the Spirit of Kako’o” (Stacy Kong); (6) “Supporting Parenting Rights: Arc Hennepin” (Lori Gildersleeve); (7) “Two Decades of Parent Support: Reuben Lindh Parenting Program” (Audrey Kvist); (8) “Supporting Fathers with Cognitive Limitations” (Mark D. Simpson and others); (9) “Parents with Cognitive Limitations: Challenging Myths, Changing Perceptions” (Alexander J. Tymchuk); (10) “Supporting Parents and Children during Termination of Parental Rights”
(Deborah Muenzer-Doy and Lynda Anderson); (11) “Strengthening Families of Older Children” (Gwynyth Llewellyn); (12) “The Adult Children of Parents with Learning Difficulties” (Tim Booth and Wendy Booth); (13) “Welfare Reform and Parents with Disabilities” (Caroline Hoffman and Howard Mandeville); (14) “System Abuse and the Power of Advocacy” (Tim Booth and Wendy Booth); and (15) “How Small Initiatives Make a Difference” (Rick Brooks). The issue closes with a list of supported parenting resources.

1990


ABSTRACT: This article reviews the literature on parenthood by people with intellectual disability including parenting after deinstitutionalization, parenting for those already identified as needing assistance, parenting in comparison with other parents, outcomes for children of intellectually disabled parents, and parent experiences before the courts. The heterogeneity of parenting experiences for this population is noted.


ABSTRACT: Describes a home-based intervention program that provided time-intensive, supervised, paraprofessional services to a family in which parents and infant had serious disabilities. Programmatic needs and delivery of services to disabled parents and families are discussed.

1981


ABSTRACT: Issues in working with mentally retarded parents are considered. Experiences of the Intensive Services to Families at Risk Project (ISFAR), an effort to prevent the need for foster care by improving the quality of care for abused and neglected children in their own families, are recounted. Among problems facing retarded parents is a tendency to overgeneralize instructions, difficulty in adjusting parenting styles to changes in child’s development, and lack of such vital resources as transportation for medical services or clothing. ISFAR services addressed child care knowledge, parent child interaction, resource deficits, and family supports. In addition, parents were helped to interact with various human service agencies. Activity groups were used to improve parenting abilities, and individual sessions were devoted to unique needs. Benefits of the program are traced, and the need for an array of services is stressed, including skill training, home visiting, and casework designed to reduce resource and social problems.

Documents from the National Library of Medicine PubMed search at [www.pubmed.com](http://www.pubmed.com) are listed below:

2008


ABSTRACT: This qualitative study describes and analyzes the perceptions and experiences of fathers with spinal cord injury (SCI) regarding their relationship with their children, in the context of social attitudes toward parenting by persons with SCI. The study was conducted within the phenomenological-constructivist paradigm. The sample included 12 males with SCI. All participants were paraplegic Type D1-D12; 2 have incomplete injury to D11 and D12. Data were collected through in-depth semi-structured interviews designed to understand participants’ meanings. Interviews included a brief questionnaire containing socio-demographic items and an interview guide based on the research topics. The model addresses how fathers with SCI cope with negative social attitudes toward their parenting and their actions to facilitate their children’s acceptance of and adjustment to the father’s disability.
2006

PMID #: 16700496
ABSTRACT: No abstract is available.

2003

PMID #: 12654322
ABSTRACT: No abstract is available.

PMID #: 12654323
ABSTRACT: OBJECTIVE: The purpose of this study was to obtain sound prevalence and outcomes data on parents with disabilities and their children in statutory child protection proceedings. METHOD: The court files of all care and protection matters initiated by the statutory child protection authority and finalized in a 9-month period (n=285) at two Children’s Courts in NSW, Australia were reviewed. RESULTS: Parents with disabilities featured in almost one-third of the cases (29.5 percent). Parental psychiatric disability was most prevalent at 21.8 percent followed by parental intellectual disability (mental retardation) at 8.8 percent. Significant associations were found between parental disability and court outcome with a disproportionately large number of children of parents with intellectual disability being made wards of the state. CONCLUSIONS: The findings demonstrate that parents with disabilities are significantly over-represented in statutory child protection proceedings and that the outcomes of these proceedings vary according to disability type.

PMID #: 14600313
Available in full-text at ps.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/full/54/11/1526.
ABSTRACT: No abstract is available.

2002

PMID #: 11891494
ABSTRACT: This article describes the experience of an advanced practice nurse in a challenging clinical situation. A mother with mental illness and mental retardation seeks to retain parental rights and care for her newborn with cystic fibrosis. The nurse provides leadership to the hospital team and serves as an advocate throughout legal proceedings. A systematic, nonjudgmental, and empathic approach to gathering information, working with the family, welfare, and legal representatives is described. Enacting a complex and court-mandated homecare education regimen to the disabled mother is discussed. Preparation to testify in a termination of parental rights proceeding is outlined and a summary description of the testimony provided. Copyright 2002, Elsevier Science (USA).

2000

PMID #: 10921234
ABSTRACT: No abstract is available.

1999

(1999). Two courts say ADA doesn’t apply in parental rights cases. AIDS Policy & Law, 14(18), 4-5.
PMID #: 11367029
ABSTRACT: AIDS: State courts in Connecticut and Ohio have ruled that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) cannot be used as a defense against ef-
forts by State child welfare agencies to gain custody of neglected or abused children. The ADA prohibits an individual from being denied access to services, programs, or activities of a public entity, but the courts ruled that the ADA did not apply to parental termination cases. The Connecticut and Ohio rulings both held that parents cannot use the ADA to prevent their children from being removed after they have been abused. The cases involved the States’ obligations to preserve the family, but the courts ruled the question of whether welfare officials did their best to accommodate parents was irrelevant. A chart displays how the ADA applies to termination hearings in 12 States.

1994

PMID #: 11653343
ABSTRACT: *No abstract is available.*

New Community Integration Tool from the UPenn Collaborative on Community Integration!

**Preventing Custody Loss: Suggestions for Parents with Psychiatric Disabilities**

The best way to prevent custody loss is to have a plan that helps you improve your parenting skills while managing your psychiatric disability. This CI Tool includes suggestions on how to create a plan to protect the best interests of the child and to demonstrate your maturity as a parent.

*Available for free at:*


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**Quick Looks**

Adoption.com – Disabled Parents
adoption adoption.com/child/disabled-persons-can-adopt.html

Disabled Parents Network (DPN) UK
www.disabledparentsnetwork.org.uk/cgi-bin/site/site.cgi

Family Village – Parents with Disabilities
www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/general/parents/parentsdis.html

i-Village Message Board: Parents with a Disability
messageboards.ivillage.com/iv-ppdisability

National Center for Parents with Disabilities and their Families – NIDRR Grantee
Through the Looking Glass (TLG)
Parents with Disabilities – lookingglass.org/parents
National Parent-to-Parent Network – lookingglass.org/parents/ppn.php
Training, Presentations, and Workshops – lookingglass.org/training
Publications: lookingglass.org/shop
TLG Newsletter—Parenting with a Disability: www.lookingglass.org/newsletter

Parenting with a Disability Network (PDN) (Canada)
www.cilt.ca/parenting.aspx

Parents with Disabilities Online
www.disabledparents.net

Parents with Disabilities Project

Yahoo Discussion Group: Disabled Adoptive Parents (DAP) –
groups.yahoo.com/group/disabledadoptiveparents
Search Terms for Custodial and Parental Rights of Individuals with Disabilities

- ADA
- Adjustment
- Adoption
- Advocacy
- Agency Cooperation
- Assistive Devices/Technology
- Attitudes toward Disabilities
- Attitudinal Barriers
- Behavior
- Blind
- Brain Injuries
- Caregivers
- Case Management
- Case studies
- Child Abuse/Care/Development/Rearing/Welfare
- Child Custody/Legislation
- Child of Impaired Parents
- Children
- Civil Rights/Legislation
- Cognitive Disabilities
- Community Living/Resources
- Court Cases/Litigation
- Custody
- Daily Living
- Deaf
- Developmental Disabilities
- Disabilities
- Disability Studies
- Disabled Parents
- Evaluation/Techniques
- Families
- Family Life/Programs
- Foster Care
- Goal Setting
- Government
- Independent Living
- Intellectual Disabilities
- International Rehabilitation
- Interpersonal Relationships
- Intervention
- Judicial Role
- Learning Disabilities
- Legal Concerns/Services
- Legislation
- Literature Reviews
- Mental Health/Illness/Retardation
- Parental Rights
- Parent Attitudes/Education
- Parent-Child Relationship
- Parenting/Skills
- Parenting with a Disability
- Parents with Disabilities
- Peer Counseling
- Physical Disabilities
- Policy
- Program Development
- Psychiatric Disabilities
- Public Policy
- Reproduction
- Rights of Parents with a Disability
- Sensory Impairments
- Social Networks/Services/Support
- Social Work
- Spinal Cord Injuries (SCI)
- Statistics
- Sterilization/Involuntary
- Training Materials
- Trends
- Visual Impairments
- Welfare
About reSearch:

reSearch is a new information product from the National Rehabilitation Information Center (NARIC). Each issue is based on real-world queries received by our information specialists from researchers, educators, and rehabilitation professionals around the world.

We search several sources both in-house and online, to fill these requests including:

- REHABDATA and the NIDRR Program database
- Education Resources Information Center
- National Clearinghouse of Rehabilitation Training Materials
- Campbell and Cochrane Collaborations
- PubMed and other National Library of Medicine databases
- Agency for Health Care Policy and Research databases
- Center for International Rehabilitation Research Information and Exchange
- and other reputable, scholarly information resources.

We hope you find these reSearch briefs informative in your own research.

- NARIC Information and Media Team