

ShowNotes

Episode 20: **Reproductive Violence**

Summary of Episode:

Robyn Powell speaks about the discrimination persons with disabilities face when it comes to their right to have and create their family the way they see fit. She talks about how Ableism is engrained into Child Welfare and how this system should be completely remodelled.

Biography:

As a disabled woman, Dr. Powell has dedicated her career to advancing the rights of people with disabilities. For nearly five years, Dr. Powell served as an Attorney-Advisor at the National Council on Disability (NCD), an independent federal agency that advises the President and Congress on matters concerning people with disabilities. Previously, she served as a Research Associate at the Lurie Institute for Disability Policy at Brandeis University, Disability Rights Program Manager at the Equal Rights Center, Assistant Director for Policy and Advocacy at the Disability Policy Consortium, and Staff Attorney at Greater Boston Legal Services.

Dr. Powell is one of the authorities on the rights of parents with disabilities. She is the principal author of NCD's report, *Rocking the Cradle: Ensuring the Rights of Parents with Disabilities and their Children*. She joined the Oklahoma University Law faculty in 2022. Her research focuses on the intersection of disability law and family law, reproductive justice, and public health law, with a particular emphasis on examining how laws and policies affect disabled people's decision-making about whether and when to have children.

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References:

Articles

Powell, R. M., Parish, S. L., Mitra, M., Waterstone, M., & Fournier, S. (2022). Child welfare system inequities experienced by disabled parents: towards a conceptual framework, *Disability & Society*, DOI: 10.1080/09687599.2022.2071675

Powell, R. M. (2022). Achieving Justice for Disabled Parents and Their Children: An Abolitionist Approach. *Yale Journal of Law and Feminism*, 33, 37-109.

Albert, S. M., & Powell, R. M. (2022). Ableism in the Child Welfare System: Findings from a Qualitative Study. *Social Work Research*, 46, 141-152, <https://doi.org/10.1093/swr/svac005>

Resources

The Special Interest Research Group on Parents and Parenting with Intellectual Disabilities was founded in 1996 at an international conference in Denmark which was organized by the Danish Ministry of Social Affairs and The EU Commission. The SIRG/PID was formally affiliated with the International Association on the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD) in 2002. The mission of the Special Interest Research Group on Parents and Parenting with Intellectual Disabilities is:

- To create opportunities for international and multidisciplinary networking;
- To foster research and innovation;
- To expose social and systemic discrimination against and promote equalisation of opportunity for parents with intellectual disabilities and their children;
- To facilitate the translation of knowledge from research into policies and practices. <https://iassidd.org/sirgs/parenting-with-intellectual-disabilities/>