



**PREGNANT
THEN SCREWED**



20th October 2020

Dear Jacqui, Matthew, and Suzanne

We are writing to you as a coalition of organisations that have been campaigning to remove disproportionate visiting restrictions in maternity services in Trusts.

It is clear that the framework issued on the 8th September has yet to be implemented in full in the majority of Trusts in England, and that some Trusts are starting to backtrack and re-implement restrictions in maternity services. Even in areas where coronavirus cases are rising, the onus is on Trusts to show that that the increased risk from welcoming partners, outweighs the real and known harms from separating families at this time.

We ask you to issue immediate clarification that women and birthing people are a unique population with distinct needs and that whole hospital visiting policies should not apply to maternity services. A partner of choice should be seen as an “essential visitor” and should be permitted to attend all scans, antenatal appointments, induction of labour, assessment (triage) of labour, a significant number of hours per day on inpatient wards and in neonatal units, and that a second birth partner should be accommodated where possible.

We look forward to your urgent response.

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Registered charity number 1151152
Patron: Nadine Montgomery



Maria Booker, Birthrights

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