



Protecting human rights
in childbirth

Registered address:
Birthrights
Union House
111 New Union Street
Coventry CV1 2NT
0300 400 30 400

18th December 2020

Dear Ms Acott,

I am writing to you from the human rights in childbirth charity Birthrights, regarding the issue of allowing partners into scans and also in relation to the filming of scans where partners are not allowed to attend.

You will be aware that NHS England and NHS Improvement published revised guidance earlier this week recognising that familiar support is a key component of safe and personalised maternity care, and urging Trusts to urgently and creatively address any remaining challenges in the way of welcoming partners back into every stage of maternity care.

It is fantastic to see that partners are able to be present for the duration of labour including induction at your Trust, and that partners are able to visit from 8am to 8pm on the inpatient wards. We also note that partners have very recently been able to attend the 20 week scan. We would be grateful if you could share with us any revised risk assessment, and any further action you will be taking in the near future to ensure that partners can attend other appointments and in particular scans.

Please could you also explain why women are not currently allowed to film any of their scan, even a short clip at the end of the appointment as supported by the Society of Radiographers, in order to enable partners to feel part of a crucial milestone in their baby's care?

birthrights.org.uk
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Registered charity number 1151152
Patron: Nadine Montgomery

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We look forward to your most urgent response.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Booker
Programmes Director - Birthrights

Cc

Hannah Horne - Head of Midwifery

East Kent MVP

Jenny Hughes - Regional Midwife for the South east

PALS

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