

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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### Fight for Life

A COURT ruling that a woman with the mental age of a child must have an abortion against her will has been overturned after her mum said she would care for the baby.



The woman, who is in her twenties, was initially ordered to have her baby terminated after doctors agreed it was in her best interest. Yesterday, the woman's mum, a Catholic and former midwife, challenged the initial court order issued on Friday, insisting that she would look after the baby on her daughter's behalf. John Sherrington, a bishop in the Catholic diocese of Westminster called the original ruling "sad and distressing". He added that it "raises serious questions about the meaning of 'best interests' when a patient lacks mental capacity and is subject to the court's decision against her will."

Police have not yet released information on the circumstances of conception and are currently investigating. This is not a unique case, in 2015 a court ruled that a 36-year-old woman with an IQ of 70 and an "extraordinary, tragic, and complex obstetric history" should be sterilized for her own safety. She had six children who she has no contact with and all being raised by carers. Justice Nathalie Lieven said: "I am acutely conscious of the fact that for the state to order a woman to have a termination where it appears she doesn't want it is an immense intrusion."

"I think she would like to have a baby in the same way she would like to have a nice doll."

She also added that if she was to have the baby and then for it to be put up for adoption it would cause her more damage because at that stage it would be a "real baby". She added that she had to act in the woman's best interests and not abide by society's views of termination. The three judges on the Court of Appeal didn't explain why they ruled against proceeding with the abortion and said they would give their reasons at a later date. The NHS trust in charge of the woman's care requested the court's permission for doctors to terminate the pregnancy.

Three specialists, an obstetrician and two psychiatrists made the decision, concluding that giving birth and having a child would be detrimental to the woman's psychiatric health. She is 22 weeks pregnant and has the mental capacity of a six-to-nine-year-old child but she and her mum don't want to terminate the pregnancy. "To force abortion on any person is abhorrent and to do so in the name of medicine and in the complete defiance of the religious and cultural values of the mother concerned calls into question the structures of law and justice in our society," said John Deighan, deputy chief executive of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children.

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/9365330/mentally-ill-woman-abortion/>

# Loneliness

Most people will feel lonely at some point in their lives. It's a deeply personal experience that - in most cases - will thankfully pass. But for a growing number of people, loneliness can define their lives and have a significant impact on their wellbeing.



Young people not currently in employment, education or training (NEET) were almost 20% more likely to feel lonely than those not categorised in this group.

3.6 Million older people live alone

Loneliness can be as harmful as 15 cigarettes

3 out of 4 GPs see 1-5 people per day who suffer from loneliness

Up to 85% of young disabled 18-34 year olds feel lonely

# What Can I Do If I Feel Lonely

1. Find out what makes you feel lonely. When did the feeling start.
2. Write A Gratitude Diary. Every day write down things which you are grateful for.
3. Join a new class. This could be exercise, art or a computer course. Anything which helps you meet and join in with other people.
4. Volunteer to work for a charity

## Quiz

## Reflect on your answers



Do you enjoy spending time alone?	<b>Yes, Sometimes, Never</b>
Do you feel lonely even when you are with other people	<b>Yes, Sometimes, Never</b>
Do you find it easy to make friends	<b>Yes, Sometimes, Never</b>
Do you keep in touch with old friends	<b>Yes, Sometimes, Never</b>
Do you feel close to your family	<b>Yes, Sometimes, Never</b>
Do you feel you have lots in common with people around you?	<b>Yes, Sometimes, Never</b>
Do you enjoy being alone for a long time	<b>Yes, Sometimes, Never</b>

# Life of Grime



Boy, 3, found wandering streets alone led cops to his squalid house where five kids lived among dog mess and flies

FIVE kids were discovered living in a filthy house covered in dog mess after one of the boys wandered out into the street alone and was found by cops, a court heard.

Police made the grim find after two PCSOs saw a three-year-old in the street and took him back to his squalid home, according to Wales Online. When they arrived at the Swansea home, officers were disgusted to find it filled with dirty nappies and crawling with flies, a court heard.

The mum of the kids pleaded guilty to child cruelty and was sentenced her to 14 months in prison suspended for 24 months. Swansea Crown Court was told that the kids would regularly turn up for school hungry and unwashed, occasionally with head lice. Teachers were even forced to give the kids hand-me-down clothes from their own children to wear after they were sent to school in scruffy and ill-fitting outfits. Prosecutor Robin Rouch said dog poo was found on the floors and beds of the dirty home.

He told the court that the PCSOs noticed a strong smell in the air. Judge Peter Heywood said the "squalid" home was not fit for human habitation, especially not for young kids. The five children have been taken off their mum and are understood to be "doing well" in their new home environments. Social services had been working with the mum to try support her before police got involved last year.

Defence lawyer Carina Hughes said the woman had been struggling to cope as a single mother with mental health issues.

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/9366645/boy-3-found-street-swanseasqualid-house-kids/>