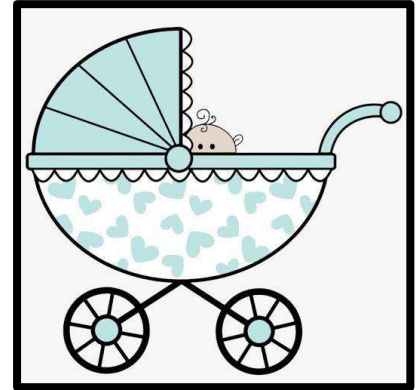


# A Baby Carriage in New York City

[Subsection 1 of New York's Penal Law § 260.10](#) provides that any man or woman who intentionally acts in a way likely to cause injury to the physical or mental welfare of a child, or who intentionally acts in a way that could injure the moral welfare of a child 16 years old or younger is guilty of the crime of Endangering the Welfare of a Child. This subsection specifically includes authorizing or directing a child to work in a job that involves "substantial risk of danger to his life or health."

New York's child endangerment statute does *not* require the prosecutor to prove that any injury actually occurred. Instead, the statute is focused on the "potential" for injury to the child either physically, mentally, or morally.

The offense of endangering the welfare of a **child** is a Class A **misdemeanor**, which is just one step down from a **felony** and there is a very real risk that time will be served if convicted of endangering a child. A person could be sentenced to up to a year of imprisonment.



**As a small group, you must act as the District Attorney of Manhattan and determine the following:**

- 1) Would you charge Sorenson, the Danish mother, with child endangerment? Why or why not?
- 2) If you said yes to #1, what would be the sentence you would ask the judge to impose? If you said no to #1, how would you justify your decision to the press?
- 3) Would you allow the mother to reunite with the child? Under what circumstances?
- 4) What would you do about the American father? Would he be treated the same as the mother? Why or why not?

Once your group decides, please fill out your group's square of the shared document. We will compare the responses.

**Small Group Response Table**

<u>Group 1</u>	<u>Group 2</u>
<u>Group 3</u>	<u>Group 4</u>