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Local News

Posted: Thursday, 19 October 2006 11:04AM

A New License Plate for Strollers?

NEW YORK -- Nanny beware.

Parents now have a way to find out if their stroller-pushing nanny is out of step.

The simple device, a stroller "license plate" registered to www.HowsMyNanny.com, is the invention of a New York City prosecutor, Jill Starishevsky.

The \$50 plates are attached to a stroller, and all tipsters have to do is take down the number and send an e-mail to the parents if they witness something untoward. Information can remain anonymous.

Reaction to the stroller plates was mixed.

"It sounds like a good idea," Juliana Zinger, 40, a mother of three, told the Daily News in Thursday editions. "There's nothing better than getting feedback on our nanny."

But Christine Deys, executive director of the New York chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America, said the plates won't stop child abuse which usually occurs behind closed doors.

Ai-Jen Poo of Domestic Workers United, which represents 200,000 nannies in the New York metro region, also was critical of the plates. "It's going to end up backfiring," she said. "This kind of surveillance creates a hostile work environment."

Starishevsky admitted the tool wasn't perfect: Parents also could find themselves on the receiving end of tipsters' reports.

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