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WNBC News 4 You: Sitter Stealing and Nanny Nabbing

WNBC: Sitter stealing. It's not when a babysitter steals from you, but rather when a friend -- or so-called friend -- steals your sitter. The results? Miserable kids, lost friendships and worst of all, no baby-sitter.

So how can you make your babysitter theft proof? Here is iVillage contributor and CEO and founder of Sittercity.com, Genevieve Thiers. Lets talk about this. What is nanny poaching and sitter stealing?

GENEVIEVE THIERS: It is a real phenomenon and a real problem when it happens! Sitter stealing and nanny nabbing is what it is usually called and it is what it sounds like: when a friend steals the sitter or nanny of another friend.

WNBC: Where does this kind of thing happen?

GENEVIEVE THIERS: It can happen pretty much anywhere.

WNBC: I am sending my babysitter to the library. Can it happen there?

GENEVIEVE THIERS: It could. It can happen at the grocery store, a party, anywhere where your friends or acquaintances would be able to see your sitter in action or have access to your sitter.

WNBC: I think the real question is why is this happening? I imagine because it is so hard to find a good babysitter and get one as well.

GENEVIEVE THIERS: I think the main thing is people are always looking for what other people have. And so, I would say it is not that hard to find a babysitter right now. Sites like **Sittercity.com** have thousands of babysitters with references and background checks. One of the things I have noticed about sitter stealing is that it usually happens when the other parent is being lazy and they don't feel like doing all of the work, so they think, "Well, Cindy has a great sitter, I will steal that sitter." That's why it is so bad.

WNBC: What's your best advice for parents so this doesn't happen?

GENEVIEVE THIERS: Well, first of all do not give out the information of your primary sitter. Hide your baby-sitter. I mean, be careful, it is a slippery slope. If you give her name out once she could be used again and again, and all of a sudden you have lost her. Make sure your sitter is happy. It is really important that your sitter feels like part of the family, that they don't have a lot of problems and you are paying them well so they stay with you.

WNBC: You say make sure they are paid properly. How do you know if you are doing it right?

GENEVIEVE THIERS: On Sittercity.com and on iVillage.com, we have a rate calculator and you can go to the calculator and see what the rate is in your area. Check it out and even pay a little bit more. You want to make sure your sitter is happy so that when someone tries to steal or nanny nap, they won't go with. Keep friends close and babysitters closer!

WNBC: Genevieve, thanks so much for being here. We appreciate it, thank you.