

Grandma weighs her decision to sever contact with daughter

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago one of my granddaughters was molested by her mother's (my daughter's) then-boyfriend, whom they were living with. When the girl's father found out, he called the police and the man was arrested, tried and convicted.

Abby, while he was out on bail, my daughter married him! She doesn't believe the molestation took place. If I were in her shoes, I would certainly believe my 8-year-old daughter over a boyfriend about something so damaging.

I cut off contact with this daughter, as did her sisters. She occasionally calls my husband (who is not her father) when she wants something, and I have received a few texts, which I ignore.

Am I doing the right thing? I sometimes feel guilty, but it angers me that she didn't stand behind her daughter and has made no effort to see either of her girls over the past two years. I see them often because their dad knows I stand with the girls 100 percent. — **GRANDMA IN OHIO**

DEAR GRANDMA: The answer to your question depends upon why your daughter hasn't seen her children in two years. If it's because their father won't allow it, then her estrangement from her daughters isn't her fault. If it has been her choice, however, then stop feeling guilty.



DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I need your opinion about my ex-husband and his lack of respect for boundaries. He moved out of our home two years ago, but never changed his mailing address. We have been officially divorced for six months. He feels it's OK to come to our "married house" anytime he wants. We have two teenage children who refuse to spend the night with him.

When he comes to my house, he goes through the mail, opens the cabinets and refrigerators, even goes into my room when I'm not home and watches TV. I am dating someone new and don't feel comfortable with this setup. I'm worried it will cause problems with my new friend, and I don't know how to stop this madness.

We currently have the "married house" on the market, and I want to make sure he knows he won't be welcome in my new home if not invited. How do I avoid conflict with him and my kids? — **REALLY DIVORCED IN ST. LOUIS**

DEAR REALLY DIVORCED: You should have set clear boundaries the day your divorce became official, but it's still not too late to do so. Tell your ex to notify the post office -- and his creditors -- of his change of address, and that if his mail continues to show up at your house, after a month it will be returned to the post office with the notation "not at this address."

You should also inform him and your children that you do not want him in your house in your absence. If he doesn't respect your wishes, then change the locks. The time he spends with your teenage children should also be elsewhere. He may not like the fact that you are establishing your independence, but you have a right to your privacy.

TO MY JEWISH READERS: Sundown starts Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year. It is the beginning of our time of solemn introspection. I would like to wish you all "Leshana tova tikatevu" — may you be inscribed in the Book of Life and enjoy another good year.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069

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Instructions for play: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

That's all there is to it. There's no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. It's fun. It's challenging. It's addictive!

Solving time is typically from 10 to 30 minutes, depending on your skill and experience. The solution for today's puzzle will be published in Saturday's paper. Or you can go to www.sudoku.com to find the solution.

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9	5	6	2	4	3	1	8	7
8	7	2	1	6	9	3	4	5

HELOISE'S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

The Purpose Behind Scalding Milk

Dear Heloise: Why do some instructions call for SCALDED MILK? What is the purpose? Thanks in advance! — Pat W., Harrisonburg, Va.

Very good question, and one I had to think about. Older recipes said to scald milk to kill bacteria and an enzyme that prevented thickening in recipes. Today, most milk is pasteurized, so the bacteria and enzyme are already gone.

Also, scalding milk raises the temperature, which helps dissolve yeast and melt butter when added to bread recipes.

How do you scald milk? Heat the liquid until just below the boiling point, or 180 degrees. After scalding, a recipe typically will state that you let the milk cool to 110 degrees before adding it to the other ingredients. Scalded milk helps make cakes spongy and breads light. — Heloise

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SEEDING LEMONS

Dear Heloise: Being from the South, we like to serve iced tea and have lemon available, but how do you get rid of the seeds? I tried those little mesh-covered things you can put over a lemon, but it was way too messy. I now take one of those battery lights that you can buy for a couple of dollars. I place it on my counter, turn on the light and, while holding the lemon, shine the light through the rind. Voilà! I can see the lemon seeds and pluck them out for seedless lemons. Works great! — David S. in Houston

This is one way, or if you cut the lemon into serving slices, use a vegetable peeler and "pick out" the seeds. — Heloise

SIMPLY SAUTE

Dear Heloise: I've just started cooking and want to know what exactly is sautéing? — Judy K. in Pennsylvania

Sautéing is when you cook foods quickly over pretty high heat! You use a small amount of fat or broth.

Leave space between food pieces, and place only one layer of food at a time. Both meats and vegetables can be sautéed. You want the same-size beef, fish fillets or chicken breasts.

Try sautéing vegetables like mushrooms, bell peppers and snap peas. Whatever the food, stir it frequently so it browns evenly. — Heloise

P.S.: I even sauté Romaine and iceberg lettuces, as well as apple slices!

WARM BUTTER

Dear Heloise: I had a recipe that called for two sticks of butter, room temperature, and as usual, I had forgotten to lay it out beforehand. I had used my hair dryer that morning and knew that it had a "warm" setting -- aha! I cut the butter up into small pieces and used the low setting on the dryer. It worked like a charm and didn't melt the butter, but softened it just right for "cream butter and sugar." — Vonda W., Amarillo, Texas

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Invites

5 Yokel

9 Belonging

11 The Evil

12 Caesar's

13 Cabaret

14 Descartes'

15 Red hue

17 Red hue

19 Tax agcy.

20 Flea mar-

21 Heating

22 Take care

24 Do

26 Ore

29 Place

30 Red hue

32 Red hue

34 Machinery

35 Quartet

36 River of

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Previous Puzzle

11 Reach	25 Bloc
across	27 Concert
16 Jazz	bonus
legend	28 Gems
Ornette	29 Flat-
18 Ship staff	bottomed
21 Depleted	boats
23 1984	30 Catcher's
World	need
Series	31 Deal
champs	maker
24 Cochise's	33 Diner buy
people	37 Roof part

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35					36	37		
38					39			
40						41		

9-4

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Ring of

light

5 Rx

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10 The

Emerald

Isle

11 Break

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12 Spring

13 Make

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14 Trajectory

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16 "They're

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23 Tiny

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24 Find

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25 Square

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27 Early auto

28 Rock

growth

29 Render

powerless

32 Perfect

example

36 Go by

39 Jazz

combo

40 Southern

ladies

41 Sunrise

site

42 Farm

machine

43 Poker

payment

DOWN

1 Lend a

hand

2 Vicinity

3 Tale teller

4 In theory

5 Perry's

assistant

6 Mermaid's