



Carolyn Hax: When should parents inform their children about their grandmother's continuous affair?

Description

Dear Carolyn,

My mother-in-law, who is still married to my father-in-law, is in an extramarital relationship. Every other month, she leaves for a week to spend time with her new partner. My children, both very young, often notice her absence and question her whereabouts. We tell them the truth that Nana is away, but never elaborate more. I'm apprehensive about lying to them, having experienced the disappointment of deception as a child myself. However, I'm unsure how to balance providing truthful explanations with preserving their innocence. What's the best approach to handle this tricky situation?

Nana's Out of Town,

Why should it ever be required to air out someone else's private matters? It seems to me that your in-laws are in what can possibly be an open marriage. This is their business, yours is to raise your children. You're undeniably overthinking things here. Your five-month-old is not going to start cross-examining your dismissive parting phrases. Or maybe you're using this as a way to vent your own discomfort with the situation?

Remember to teach your children about personal boundaries and respect for others' privacy. When Nana is not around, simple answers like "Nana's busy today" or "Nana couldn't be here" will suffice. If your children get older and question more, then introduce them to the concept of privacy. Teach them that it is okay not to know every detail of someone's life.

Use this as an opportunity to open discussions about privacy and honesty. This will be helpful when they become teenagers, where the push and pull of privacy is most intense.

Also, remember that your children learn how to navigate relationships from observing you and your husband. Be honest, and pair it with tact, respect and privacy. These traits will serve them well in the future.

Dear Carolyn,

I left an abusive marriage two years ago and have decided to remain single for now. However, my children believe I'm lonely and urge me to date again. But I'm content with being alone. Should I go against my wish and start dating again?

Anonymous,

Absolutely not! After enduring an abusive relationship, the last thing you should do is rush into another one. Loneliness is not pleasant, but it's not a reason to enter a relationship prematurely. I would encourage you to focus instead on forging friendships and establishing a support network.

Do things that bring you joy, find activities that you love, and meet new people naturally. Take the time to



carefully vet any potential relationships, romantic or otherwise. Pay close attention to your feelings and move forward only when you feel comfortable and completely safe being yourself.

Don't ever feel pressured to be in a relationship, cherish your independence and the peace it brings. Seek the company of trustworthy friends instead. Rebuilding trust post an abusive relationship takes time. Take small steps and continue your journey at your own pace.

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Vocabulary List:

1. **Extramarital** // (adjective): Involving a romantic or sexual relationship outside of marriage.
2. **Apprehensive** // (adjective): Anxious or fearful that something bad or unpleasant will happen.
3. **Deception** // (noun): The act of deceiving or tricking someone.
4. **Privacy** // (noun): The state of being free from public attention or observation.
5. **Innocence** // (noun): Lack of knowledge or understanding of the complexities of life especially in moral matters.
6. **Abusive** // (adjective): Involving physical or emotional mistreatment or violence.

Vocabulary quizzes



Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which word best describes an extremely wicked and villainous action?
Option: Peddle
Option: Neighborhood
Option: Nefarious
Option: Dispatch

2. What is the process of administering a vaccine to protect against a specific disease?
Option: Immunity
Option: Culminate
Option: Vaccination
Option: Precautions

3. What are recommended principles or rules to assist in a particular situation?
Option: Implications
Option: Guidelines
Option: Advisories
Option: Elderly

4. Which term means harmful or damaging?
Option: Detrimental
Option: Contradicts
Option: Unpleasant
Option: Controversial

5. What word describes something complete or including all aspects of a subject?
Option: Instigating
Option: Comprehensive
Option: Fascinating
Option: Abstaining

6. Which term refers to a person's facial features or expression?
Option: Engagement
Option: Extramarital
Option: Physiognomy
Option: Apprehensive

7. What is the term for the state of being free from public attention or observation?
Option: Deception
Option: Privacy
Option: Innocence



Option: Abusive

8. Which word means to bring about or initiate?

Option: Abusive

Option: Instigating

Option: Extramarital

Option: Precautions

9. Which term is used to describe something that causes disagreement or argument?

Option: Implications

Option: Fascinating

Option: Controversial

Option: Abstaining

10. Which word best describes something extremely unpleasant?

Option: Intriguing

Option: Odious

Option: Detrimental

Option: Dispatch

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. An _____ is a claim or assertion that someone has done something illegal or wrong.

12. The _____ woman was helped across the street by a kind passerby.

13. The decision to change suppliers had far-reaching financial _____ for the company.

14. In order to maintain his fitness goals he was _____ from eating sugary snacks.

15. The plot of the movie was so _____ that it kept the audience guessing until the end.

16. The magician used sleight of hand to create an illusion of _____.

17. Their _____ was announced at a family gathering bringing cheers and hugs from all.

18. Before starting the experiment the students were instructed to take necessary _____

19. The scandal involved an _____ affair that led to the downfall of a prominent



politician.

20. She was _____ about the outcome of her job interview hoping for the best but fearing the worst.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The smell from the garbage bin made everyone hold their noses in disgust.
22. Travelers are urged to follow health and stay informed about any local safety concerns.
23. Vaccines help boost the body's natural to fight off infections.
24. The documentary about marine life was so that it inspired many to learn more about the ocean.
25. His statement completely what he had said earlier causing confusion among the listeners.
26. The surprise of finding a spider in the shoe startled the hiker.
27. The rumors were aimed at unrest among the students leading to a chaotic situation.
28. The study covered all aspects of the research topic leaving no stone unturned.
29. Despite the in her eyes some doubted her involvement in the crime.
30. His behavior towards his colleagues eventually led to his dismissal.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Nefarious 2. Vaccination 3. Guidelines 4. Detrimental 5. Comprehensive 6. Physiognomy 7. Privacy 8. Instigating 9. Controversial 10. Odious

Gap-Fill: 11. allegation 12. elderly 13. implications 14. abstaining 15. intriguing 16. deception 17. engagement 18. precautions 19. extramarital 20. apprehensive

Matching sentence: 1. odious 2. advisories 3. immunity 4. fascinating 5. contradicts 6. unpleasant 7. instigating 8. comprehensive 9. innocence 10. abusive

CATEGORY

- 1. Health - LEVEL4

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