



Living With Children

By John Rosemond

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I’ve learned a new word! My daughter informs me that according to some mothers I am guilty of “mom-shaming” and should be ashamed of myself. I am an unashamed mom-shamer because I happen to believe that just as there is one proper way to go about training a dog (of any species), there is one proper way to go about raising a human being to responsible

adulthood. That one proper way consists of three fundamental rules:

Rule One: Love unconditionally.

Rule Two: Discipline with unequivocal, unwavering, calmly intolerant authority.

Rule Three: Keep love and authority in a state of reasonable balance.

The third rule is violated by parents who follow the

advice of parenting expert John Lennon, who proposed that in the raising of a child, “love is all you need.” The real-world fact is that when love is not balanced by proper discipline, it mutates into enabling, a state of relationship that is damaging to both parties. On the other side of the parenting coin, when discipline is not properly balanced by love, it becomes abusive in one way or another.

Parenting expert Chrissy Teigen, who acts and models on the side, is sick and tired of mom-shaming. She maintains, “There’s no right

way, and everybody turns out fine...we just need empathetic and loving people in this world...people who are going to be understanding of other people...As long as you teach them that, then who cares?”

Who cares? Me, for one. In the first place, there is a right way and the children of parents who deviate from the right way do not all turn out fine. Second, the world needs parents who get it that the proper discipline of a child is an act of love for one’s neighbor.

Full disclosure: My Hollywood agent is currently talking with Teigen’s agent about a proposed television show we’re calling “Battle of the Parenting Experts.” Negotiations have stalled because of her insistence that I never mom-shame her. Excuse me? That’s like asking Batman to give up his cape.

Teigen admits to being so much in love with her two children (with political pundit John Legend) that she is “insufferable.” Looking back, I’m so glad my mother was not insufferably in love with me. I was not an idol in her life. I looked up to her (she was a single parent for most of my first seven years). She did not look up to me. Her example taught me respect for women. Courtesy of Mom, I learned that women who are worthy of respect do not enable their children; rather, they insist upon right behavior. I also learned, as a child, that there are not endless, equally valid variations on the concept of right behavior. Instead, there is usually one and only one right way and endless variations on the wrong way. For example, “You’re welcome” is the right response to “Thank you”; “No problem” is wrong. So is “Uhhh” or a grunt of any other sort.

Children don’t deal well with idol-hood. Invariably, children whose parents make idols out of them become insufferable. They demand tribute and if they don’t get



Says

By Dave Ramsey



Do we still owe?

Dear Dave,

Should you still pay debts that are in collections, even if they have been dropped from your credit report? The one in question is from 2011, and I assume it isn’t showing on the credit report anymore because it’s nine years old.

Dear Sam,

There are two good reasons to go back and deal with this debt. One, even if it’s off your credit report, you may still legally owe the money. Even if the statute of limitations has run its course, things like this have a habit of popping up and causing problems at the worst possible times. About the time you decide to buy a home, this is liable to raise its head again and mess things up. So, the fact that something doesn’t appear on a credit report doesn’t mean you’re not legally liable, or that they won’t bother you about it later.

The second thing to think about is a simple matter of fact—you owe the money. Regardless of what the legal system or credit report says, you morally owe the money. I’d contact the creditor, and begins negotiations to settle the debt.

You might be able to reach an agreement where they’d accept less than the original amount owed. Regardless, get any type of settlement

what they demand within five seconds of demanding it, they make everyone within earshot pay a terrible price.

Anyway, I accept that in the eyes of some mothers and parenting experts like Chrissy Teigen, I’m a mom-shamer. Personally, however, I think the comparison to Batman is much more apt.

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offer in writing. That way, you’re truly cleaning up your life and getting rid of any financial skeletons in your closet!

Dave

The simple thing is the right thing

Dear Dave,

I recently found out my former employer never stopped contributing to my health savings account (HSA). Apparently, this has been going on for about nine months, and they just sent me a form to sign so they can get the overpayment back. The amount totals a little over \$1,000, so should I sign the papers or is there another way to handle this?

Ellie

Dear Ellie,

(Continued on page 8.)

Changes announced for homestead exemption

Press Release

Due to the circumstances surrounding the recently declared State of Emergency, Commissioner Frierson of the Department of Revenue was granted approval to extend for the following guidelines:

- Personal Property Renditions - The Commissioner has granted an extension for the Personal Property Renditions furnished by taxpayers to the County Tax Assessor for thirty (30) days. They will be due on May 1, 2020. Since the due date is now May 1 2020, the 10% increase in assessment penalty for failure to provide to Assessor will also be extended to May 1, 2020.
- Homestead Application Deadline - The Commissioner has granted an extension for Homestead Application deadline until May 1, 2020.

and healthcare professionals are doing everything they can to prevent the spread of COVID-19, but we need help from the community to flatten the curve on this disease,” said Claude Brunson, MD, executive director of MSMA. “Taking simple steps like staying home until a test confirms you are negative for COVID-19 will help protect others and preserve the critical medical supplies we need to address this growing pandemic.”

For more information about the impact of COVID-19 in Mississippi is available on the MSDH website at www.msdh.ms.gov.

MSMA continues to provide updated information, resources, and guidance about COVID-19 for physicians at www.msmaonline.com/covid-19 and on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

Businesses risk being sued amid virus, Mississippi gov says

Associated Press

Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves is allowing many businesses to remain open amid the coronavirus pandemic, but he repeated Friday that some should voluntarily change the way they operate. The Republican added a new twist by implying a threat from trial lawyers who often support Democrats.

“Large businesses that do not allow employees who could work from home to do so are risking some serious lawsuits down the road if major outbreaks can be traced back to them,” Reeves wrote on Twitter. “Stay home. Stay safe. This is not to be taken lightly, and we are far from the end.”

Reeves has not issued a statewide stay-at-home order even as the Health Department on Friday updated Mississippi’s confirmed coronavirus caseload to at least 579 people and eight deaths. Neighboring Louisiana has one of the fastest-growing caseloads in the U.S., and people commute between the two states.

Reeves spent part of Friday touring military facilities he said could be used to treat patients if Mississippi health care facilities become too busy.

The governor said Thursday that it’s OK if cities and counties impose tighter

restrictions than what he’s ordered in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Reeves issued an executive order Tuesday telling people to avoid gatherings of 10 or more and broadly defining which businesses are so “essential” that they can remain open. That order said restaurants can offer carry-out or delivery meals but must close their dining rooms unless they’re able to keep 10 or fewer people, including staff, at least 6 feet (2 meters) apart.

Some cities went further, ordering all restaurant dining rooms closed. After hearing from the Mississippi Municipal League, Reeves issued a clarification to his executive order acknowledging they have the power to do that.

“Many of them are working very, very hard, and we want to allow them to do what’s best for their communities,” Reeves said Thursday during a news conference at the Governor’s Mansion.

Because testing remains limited as the outbreak grows, many people moving around their communities may not know they’ve inhaled the virus until well after they’ve infected others. Places where people who aren’t isolating share the air with others pose a particular risk, since the highly contagious virus has been shown

to live in the air for several hours.

Most infected people experience mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks, but a fraction of people suffering more severe illnesses can require respirators to survive, and as the caseload rapidly grows, hospitals are bracing for a coming wave of patients.

A Democratic state official, northern district Public Service Commissioner Brandon Presley, said people should not be complacent just because Health Department numbers don’t yet show confirmed cases of the virus in some parts of Mississippi.

“You can rest assured that this virus is in every county,” Presley said Friday on social media. “It doesn’t know where the county line is. ... It’s simply a matter of time until your county shows up on the map.”

The University of Mississippi Medical Center announced Friday that its pathology lab has begun running results for commercially available coronavirus test kits and eventually will be able to deliver results for up to 180 people a day. That should ease the burden on the state health lab, which has been handling most of the testing in Mississippi.



A group of area residents ignores the closure of the basketball courts at Gumtree Park on Thursday, March 26, 2020, in Tupelo, Miss. All city parks were closed on Sunday March 22 due to the Coronavirus.

(Adam Robison/The Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal via AP)