



# Living With Children

By John Rosemond  
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The biggest problem in the life of today’s all-too typical mother is herself. She is her own worst enemy. Them’s fightin’ words, I know, but please, hold the tomatoes and other vegetables and

# Court: Convicted ex-prisons leader and wife owe income taxes

**Associated Press**  
A Mississippi court has affirmed a ruling that says an imprisoned former corrections commissioner and his wife must pay more than \$69,000 in state income taxes.  
A Hinds County chancery judge ruled last year that Christopher Epps and his wife, Catherlean, waited too long to challenge the Department of Revenue’s order that they must pay \$69,489 in individual income tax for 2007 to 2014. The Mississippi Court of Appeals on Tuesday affirmed that judge’s ruling, the *Clarion Ledger* reported.  
Epps was head of the state prison system for a dozen years. After resigning on Nov. 5, 2014, he was indicted on charges of accepting bribes and kickbacks in exchange for contracts and

Mommy does as much for her child as she possibly can, and then some. A guarantee of frustration, anxiety, stress, resentment and guilt, that.  
The mother of the 1950s, the decade of my childhood, had no Good Mommy Club to which to belong. Furthermore, that very common-sensically-grounded mother wouldn’t be welcome in today’s GMC, which got its start around 1970 and has  
bear with me.  
One of the doctrines of the Good Mommy Club, the evil sisterhood to which many if not most of today’s mommies belong, albeit unwittingly, has it that the Good  
illicit activity with various corrections facilities. He pleaded guilty in 2015 to money laundering and filing a false income tax return.  
Epps was sentenced in May 2017 by U.S. District Judge Henry Wingate to almost 20 years in federal prison and fined \$100,000 for running one of the largest and longest criminal conspiracies in the state’s history. Catherlean Epps was never implicated in any wrongdoing.  
A 49-count federal indictment accused Christopher Epps of taking nearly \$1.5 million in bribes and kickbacks to steer more than \$800 million worth of state prison contracts.  
A Department of Revenue audit determined the couple owed the additional taxes and issued an assessment letter dated Oct. 23, 2017. The

been swallowing women whole ever since.  
By the time I was three, my mother was deliberately, with purpose in mind, doing as little for me as reason allowed. I learned to tie my own shoes when I was four, for example, because my mother, after showing me how, refused to tie them for me.  
“John Rosemond,” she would say, “My job is to make sure you learn to stand on your own two feet, and if I let you stand on mine, you’ll never learn to stand on yours.” Hardly the words of an enabler. Kids don’t hear their moms talk like that anymore. What a shame.  
Telling her I “couldn’t” do something was unacceptable. “Well, that’s too bad,” she’d say, “because I’m not doing it for you.”  
Unlike all too many of today’s kids, I was not an object of obsession, much less coddling. I knew full well that my mother loved me with all her heart, but I was not the be-all, end-all of her existence. She had a life outside of her responsibilities toward me – a job, college, lots of friends. For that reason, I saw her as an interesting person. She taught me, at an early age, that women were interesting people. Every mother should have that purpose in mind.  
A mother who is obsessed with her kids is not going to be regarded by them as interesting. They are going to take her for granted. The idol doesn’t find the idol-worshipper interesting in the least.  
All too many of today’s mothers have taught their kids – again, unwittingly – to think of them as biological vending machines who are there to dispense and deliver whatever they want. Vending machine, perpetual enabler, servant-on-the-ready; not self-respecting roles for a woman to play in a child’s life.  
Today’s all-too-typical mom demeans herself and her sycophantic attitude leads to disrespect of all

sorts. (And yes, I know there are exceptions and they know who they are.) Instead of respecting their mothers and wanting to please them, the Good Mommy’s kids EXPECT from her.  
I give thanks almost daily for having been blessed with a mom who showed me how to tie my shoes when I was four and let me figure it out from there.  
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