



Living With Children

By John Rosemond

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Q: Our nine-year-old has just learned he is not going back to school on schedule in the fall. Instead, he will be doing distance learning by computer and home in-

struction. We had to do this for the last six weeks of the last school term and he did not like it at all. Up until now, he has loved school and been a great student. To

homeschool him, I had to take a leave of absence from my job, but I'm just not suited to it it seems. Our family can squeak by without a second income, so that's not the primary issue, but I feel like we're caught between a rock and a hard place. It looks like I have to quit my job and my son is very upset that he won't be going back to school. He cries about

it, isn't sleeping well some nights, and is beginning to develop some obedience issues. Do you have any ideas for me?

A: Over the last several months, I've been bombarded by folks who are describing similar problems. I'll tell you what I've told them but keep in mind, a one-size-fits-all answer does not exist.

According to parent re-

ports, children's reactions to the closing of schools have ranged from apathy to making the best of it. No doubt about it, significant numbers of children are experiencing mental health issues including depression, anxiety, and various forms of acting out. That is understandable given that for many kids, no school combined with no after-school sports means virtual isolation at home. Unfortunately, that often translates into over-exposure to screen-based devices that have been shown to have negative effects on both mood and behavior. I cannot be more adamant: Do not allow your child to fill his time with video games, unsupervised time on the computer, and the like. Help him connect face-to-face with other children and free play activities. Let's begin this problem-solving exercise by asking: Does the shuttering of schools in your state extend to all forms of private education as well? If not, and since your income is discretionary, then consider sending your son to a private school.

As for you not being suited to homeschooling, consider that the public-school curricula in question were not designed for that purpose. Public schools are attempt-

ing to shoehorn a classroom-based education model into homeschooling. That is not a valid means of assessing one's "suitability" – whether parent or child – for homeschooling. Get in touch with your local homeschool coordinator. Ask her to recommend a curriculum and find out what sorts of homeschool options are available in your area. There well may be one that fits both you and your son. The "university model," for example, combines group instruction and home-based instruction. That might allow you to work part-time while providing your son with a good amount of needed socializing.

Finally, see if you can find a retired teacher in your area whom you can hire to homeschool in your stead. You might even be able to form a small homeschool group with children of other parents who are in the same boat.

This will pass, but just as COVID-19 is permanently altering the way people work, it is going to alter the "look" of education in America. It may well be time to shake things up a bit anyway.

Family psychologist John Rosemond: johnrosemond.com, parentguru.com.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

3 CEMETERY PLOTS in Odd Fellows Cemetery, Lexington, known as Lot No. 606 in the 1967 Addition. Includes a Trust Receipt, No. 376, held in trust by the City of Lexington with the interest to be used for the upkeep and maintenance of Lot 606. Call Bruce Hill at

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HOLMES COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK ANNOUNCES A JOB OPENING FOR Assistant Deputy Court Clerk

Assist and respond to phone and face-to-face inquires from attorneys, judicial and law enforcement officers, and the general public. Prepare, review, and process legal documents, correspondence, motions and orders and administer oaths to witnesses. **In addition, he/she must have a public personality.**

Assistant Deputy Court Clerk Duties & Responsibilities

- The duties of an Assistant Deputy Court Clerk generally require the ability to do the following work:
- Assist and respond to phone and face-to-face inquires from attorneys, judicial and law enforcement officers and the general public.
 - Prepare, review, and process legal pleadings, motions and orders.
 - Administer oaths to witnesses.
 - Complete court-related forms, petitions and warrants
 - Issue Marriage Licenses, Garnishments, file Indictments and issue summons and subpoenas
 - Collect fines, fees and bond payments.
 - Write receipts.
 - Maintain the dockets of scheduled cases once term calendar is released by Presiding Judge
 - File documents physically or electronically if the system is in place.

Assist the Circuit Clerk and Deputy Court Clerk with the daily operation of the court in accordance with state and local laws. The Assistant Deputy Court Clerk is often expected to have advanced expertise in general courthouse procedures, pleadings and filing requirements, researching archived cases and must attend continuing education classes when scheduled.

Education, Training, & Certification

- The Assistant Deputy Court Clerk is required to have at least one year of experience in a clerical or administrative job.
- **Education:** This occupation requires a certificate from a community college and/or an Associate Degree in a clerical field or Criminal Justice.
 - **Training:** On-the-job training of 6 to 12 months working under an experienced employee is normal for Assistant Deputy Court Clerk

Assistant Deputy Court Clerk Skills

- **Interpersonal skills:** This position works with people from all walks of life on a daily basis, Treating everyone with respect and courtesy is key to doing the job effectively.
- **Communication skills:** The ability to listen actively and express yourself clearly, concisely, and diplomatically, whether orally or in writing, is crucial as you'll use these skills continuously. Good command of grammar is essential to accurately proofread work to spot and correct errors,
- **Computer and software skills:** You must be adept at using computers as well as spreadsheet, database, word processing as well as type on an IBM Wheelwriter 3000 or equivalent, email applications in carrying out assignments.
- **Math skills:** A working knowledge of basic arithmetic operations is essential to balance daily cash receipts.

For consideration, please submit resume' and references by Friday, August 28, 2020 to the Circuit Clerk's Office @ Post Office Box 718, Lexington, MS 39095 and/or must be postmarked by US Postal Service no later than August 28, 2020. August 28, 2020 will be the deadline to accept resume' and references.

NOTE: A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK AND A DRUG TEST WILL BE REQUIRED FOR SCREENING.

MDOT offers free resources to help residents prepare for hurricanes

Press Release

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) offers multiple resources to help Mississippi residents prepare for a hurricane to ensure everyone is ready before a tropical system threatens.

To help residents prepare their evacuation plans, MDOT provides free resources including the MDOT Traffic mobile app, a hurricane evacuation kit checklist and the 2020 MDOT Hurricane Evacuation Guide in English, Spanish or Vietnamese.

The Hurricane Evacuation Guide features information to assist in developing a preparedness plan such as evacuation routes, contraflow information, radio coverage areas through Mississippi Public Broadcasting and important contact information from the Mississippi Highway Patrol, American Red Cross, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and bordering state DOTs and highway patrols. Individuals and families will find vital information about shelters, pet care, lodging and travel resources.

Residents are encouraged to download the MDOT

Traffic mobile app which provides real-time traffic conditions throughout the state and will be utilized to publish emergency alerts directly to users.

The hurricane evacuation checklist provides a list of recommended items to include in evacuation kits including flashlights, a first aid kit, non-perishable food to last 14 days and more. With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, residents should also plan to add items like face masks, hand sanitizer, gloves and disinfecting wipes to help keep everyone safe.

"MDOT makes it easier than ever to get prepared before a hurricane threatens the Mississippi Coast. These resources are free, just a click away and are vital when putting together your evacuation plan," said Commissioner Tom King, Southern Transportation District.

To download the Hurricane Evacuation Guide and the full hurricane evacuation kit checklist, and for more hurricane safety tips, visit GoMDOT.com/hurricanes.

Follow @MississippiDOT on Facebook and Twitter along with the hashtag #HurricaneStrong this hurricane season.