



**ASK DEANNA!**  
*Real People,  
Real Advice*

*Ask Deanna! Is an advice column known for its fearless approach to reality-based subjects!*

Dear Deanna!

I've been in a relationship for over 10 years. During this time, my boyfriend and I have had medical emergencies, financial problems and everything else. If we were married, we could've avoided a lot of our hardships because of weak medical benefits. I'm not willing to go into another year like this. We've been together for so long but now, we need benefits. He feels marriage won't make a difference but I disagree. Am I right?

Celeste  
Cleveland, OH

Dear Celeste:

You both are wrong. You're wrong for shacking and choosing to settle for less, and he's wrong for not being a real man by doing the right thing. Marriage makes a difference now for your earthly existence and certainly matters in the eyes of God when you're six feet under. You have a common law marriage but need to seek counseling immediately so that both interests are protected, your conscience is clear and you can sleep at night.

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Dear Deanna!

My teen sons are causing a divide in my family. They have both become active on an intimate level and feel they can conduct their business in my home. I refuse to have this going on under my roof but my sons and family think they should keep their dirt at home. I'm not going for it as long as I pay the bills. If they are in my house, they have to go by my rules.

Francine  
Charleston, SC

Dear Francine:

If you're the sole provider you make the laws, enforce the rules and have ownership of everything including your sons behavior. They are being rude and disrespectful and your family is, too. If your family is so supportive, ask them to let your boys get jiggy at their home and see their response. Stick to your guns, reinforce morals and values in your sons, and keep it moving.

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Dear Deanna!

I'm responding to Elise from Birmingham who had a fight because her girlfriend touched her husband. I agree with the fight because I'm married and my husband is my property. Her husband was wrong because he should've addressed the issue immediately and the fight would've been avoided. As a married woman, I would've responded the same way and her friend got what she deserved.

Rena  
Omaha, NE

Dear Rena:

The golden rule of family and friends being off limits hasn't changed. With the inflated men to women ratio married women aren't punks and will protect their mates like lions. One simply has to say it's a beautiful thing unless you're on the receiving end. A word to the wise: Take heed because there's nothing worse than a mad married woman coming at you like a bat out of you know where!

*Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or write: Deanna M, 264 S. La Cienega, Suite 1283, Beverly Hills, CA 90211 Website: www.askdeanna.com*

# Latifah earns Hollywood star

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Queen Latifah has become the first hip-hop artist crowned with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

"I think the reason I am here is to inspire African-American women who are rappers, full-figured women to know that they can do it, too," Latifah, 35, said Wednesday at the unveiling of the sidewalk's 2,298th star.

Family and friends, including actor Terrence Howard, cheered for Latifah, also an actress, singer, spokeswoman and producer.

"Who would have known that in the '70s, when a pink 8-pound baby girl was born, this is where she would be today. She came out screaming, 'Look out world, here I come,'" her mother, Rita Owens, said.

Born Dana Owens, Queen Latifah made her debut in 1989 with the seminal hip-hop album "All Hail the Queen." Her third album, "Black Reign," earned her a



Actress/rapper/singer Queen Latifah reaches for her star during a ceremony honoring her with the first Hollywood Walk of Fame star of the year last week in Los Angeles.

Grammy award in 1994. Her leap to television in 1993 with the sitcom "Living Single" widened her appeal. She went on to star in such films as "Set It Off," "Bringing Down the House" and 2005's "Beauty Shop," which she also produced.

But it was the New Jersey native's stint as soulful prison matron Mama Morton in 2002's "Chicago" that earned her a supporting actress Oscar nomination and brought her singing acclaim.

Her latest release, "The Dana Owens Album," a jazzy collection of blues, pop and soul classics, earned her a Grammy nomination last year.

She is also a spokeswoman for CoverGirl and its record label, CG Vibes, among other companies.

She is co-chairwoman of the Lancelot H. Owens Scholarship Foundation, named for her older brother who was killed while riding a motorcycle she had bought for him.

# Wife of artist Babyface files for divorce

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The wife of Grammy-winning singer Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds has filed for divorce after 13 years of marriage, citing irreconcilable differences, court papers indicated.

Tracey Edmonds filed for divorce from her former husband Tuesday in Los Angeles County Superior Court. The couple had announced in October that they were ending their marriage with a "permanent separation" and said they had been separated for some time.

"We remain best friends," their statement then said.

Her attorney declined to discuss the matter Wednesday night. Kenneth Edmonds could not be reached for comment by The Associated Press.

The couple have produced movies and television shows together, including "Soul Food," and said in October they would continue to work together on business ventures.

Kenneth Edmonds, 47, and Tracey Edmonds, 37, married on Sept. 5, 1992. They have two sons: Brandon, 9, and Dylan, 4 1/2.

Tracey Edmonds, who as head of Edmonds Entertainment Group, Inc. is considered one of the most powerful women executives in Hollywood, is seeking physical custody of the boys, with visiting rights for her hus-

band. Besides his career as a best-selling crooner with hits

including "Whip Appeal" and "Change the World," Edmonds has written hits for

Whitney Houston, Mary J. Blige, Mariah Carey, Bobby Brown and others.

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