



ASK DEANNA!
*Real People,
Real Advice*

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

Dear Deanna!

I'm very opinionated and outspoken, and people can't seem to handle it. I stand up for what I believe and refuse to let anyone talk down to me or take advantage of me. I got passed over for an open position. My boss told me that I'm qualified but lack grace to deal with people. I was insulted because the person who got the job was my assistant. I feel like quitting, but now I don't know what to do.

Tanya
Greensboro, N.C.

Dear Tanya:

While you were busy running your mouth, your assistant was brushing up on her skills trying to better herself. It's okay to be outspoken but not every situation requires an outburst. Now that you see the error of your ways, you don't have anyone to crawl to because your big mouth has isolated you. You should take this experience as a lesson learned and humble yourself; change your ways and work hard for the next promotion.

Dear Deanna!

I share custody of my son and I want to move forward with legal custody. My ex-wife smokes cigarettes, plays loud music and always has a house full of people. I want my son to be healthy, have a good example and this bothers me. I've tried to talk with her and also asked her for full custody but she says no. Now, I've decided to take her to court and she has refused to let me see my son. Should I drop this or press forward?

Shawn
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Shawn:

No matter how good or bad a mother may be; they all turn into lions when it comes to their kids. Other than what you see, you don't know what goes on in your ex-wife's home, and your assumptions may cause things to get worse. You borrowed trouble by threatening to go to court and now, she's calling your bluff. In order for you and your wife to be on the same page, continue your plans and let a judge decide what's best.

Dear Deanna!

I'm in love with a guy I know isn't good for me but I'm still attracted to him. He drinks, has no college education and basically meets the stereotype of a player. I know he's bad news and I should stay away, but his energy makes me want to be with him and just be reckless. The problem is my parents. I'm a college student living at home and they're making me choose between him or living in their house. How do I make a decision?

Jackie
Denver, Colo.

Dear Jackie:

This is a no-brainer and the thought shouldn't enter your mind to toss your parents to the wind for a loser. You know in advance that you're setting yourself up for abuse, pain, infidelity and who knows what else. Spare yourself the misery, and make a mature decision, and listen to your parents. As a matter of fact, you don't have much input if you're in college living on their dime anyway. Again, listen to your parents and keep it moving.

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

Black created AMBER Alert

By Zenitha Prince
Special to Sentinel-Voice
BALTIMORE (NNPA) -

In January 1996, 9-year-old Amber Hagerman was kidnapped while riding her bike. A few days later Amber was found brutally murdered, her body thrown carelessly into a ravine.

The news sent a shock wave through the community and across the nation. But in the midst of that tragedy, a miracle was born. A man, virtually anonymous to everyone, called a radio station and planted the seed of what would become the premier child abduction recovery program in the nation — the AMBER Alert system. That man, Pastor Charles Williams, said he felt it was time to put a face to the miracle.

"It's probably the world's best-kept secret that the AMBER Alert was founded by a Black man," Williams said. "I wanted to set the record straight for history's sake and, more importantly, for Black history. That's what my quest has been."

At the time of the kidnapping, people were talking about it in the community and in the news.

The then-chief of police even went on a talk show and lamented their lack of progress. Williams said that resonated in a deep place in his heart.

"During that time there had been a number of kids who were kidnapped across the country and many with a tragic end. Amber's case hit

close to home because I'm the father of four girls," Williams said.

"I put myself in that family's shoes and imagined what they were going through, so I did what I normally do: I prayed about it."

At work the next day, Williams said he called in to a popular radio talk show program and made a unique suggestion.

"I suggested to the host on air, 'Mark, what would happen if, just like every time a tornado is coming, they [could] tell us almost down to the letter what street it's coming down? What would happen if every time a child was kidnapped we used that same concept, that same system — break into [programs on] radio stations and television stations and alert people,'" Williams said.

"At that time [when Amber was abducted] everything was kept hush-hush, except for within the police department, but this concept would use the public as a first resort instead of a last resort."

Although Williams did not pursue the idea at the time, he found out years later that the chief of police shared the idea with other law enforcement officials.

Later that year, a consortium of Dallas-Fort Worth broadcasters teamed up with police to develop an early warning system to help find abducted system called AMBER (America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response), named in honor of

the little girl whose death sparked the idea.

"What was born at that time was the concept that, yeah, we may have lost this one, but if we do this quick enough, we can stop things like this from happening," Williams said.

Soon the idea began to spread. To date, the Department of Justice has spent \$12 million to develop a national network and help states and other jurisdictions with training and technical assistance to develop their own AMBER Alert programs.

It was money well spent. Now, 50 states across the nation use the system, and more than 200 abducted or missing children have been returned to the safety of their families because of the AMBER Alert plan.

The figures, Williams' children said, make them proud. "I think it's cool, and to know my dad did it makes it even more special," said Sarah, Williams' daughter.

Another daughter, Kendra, added, "Whenever I see or hear about a story of a child that was saved because of the AMBER Alert I think, 'Hey, that's one more kid my dad saved... I'm very proud of him.'"

A little more than a year ago, Williams revealed his role in generating the life-saving program on the same radio show and in his book, "Faces of the AMBER Alert." Since then, Williams has been traveling the country doing book signings and

speaking engagements. He was even honored by President Bush.

There are many, however, who wonder why it took so long for him to speak up, and some accuse him of exploiting a tragedy — including the station where the idea was birthed.

"I told them I respected their opinion, but this is my story and, frankly, I felt kind of hurt because after I waited nine years, I thought that surely that would be enough time," he said. "I waited nine years until the child would have turned 18 years old, and I thought that was in very good taste on my part."

Besides, Williams said, if he had truly been thinking about exploiting Amber's tragedy, it would have made sense for him to do it back in 1996 when the family was in dire financial straits.

"At that time, back in 1996, we were so poor that I used to eat food out of dumpsters... because that's what I had to do to make it after we were denied food stamps," he said.

Williams said those humble beginnings of the AMBER Alert are discussed in his book.

He said he would not have people perceive the book as being all about Charles Williams, however, since he was merely a messenger. "God gave me the concept," Williams said, "and all I did was obey."

Zenitha Prince writes for Afro Newspapers.

Court tosses lawsuit vs. Brown

CHICAGO (AP) - A federal appeals court has rebuffed efforts of a former publicist for soul singer James Brown to bring a sexual harassment suit against him. A three-judge panel of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower court's ruling that the statute of limitations had run out before Jacquie Hollander filed her lawsuit against the so-called Godfather of Soul.

Hollander claimed that Brown raped her at gunpoint in 1988 when she was employed by him and threatened to have her killed if she told anyone.

Brown's attorneys have denied the allegation.

Hollander later developed a thyroid condition and was told by her doctor that the alleged rape was the cause.

She filed suit against Brown and his company, Brown Enterprises Inc., in January 2005, saying the two-

year statute of limitations didn't apply because she learned of her disease 12 years after the alleged incident. The appeals court said this week in a 12-page opinion written by Judge Kenneth F. Ripple that U.S. Magistrate Judge Sidney I.

Schenkier was correct in throwing out the suit in June 2005 on grounds it was 15 years too late.

According to the law, the two-year statute of limitations starts running as soon as the victim learns that an injury, such as rape, has been

inflicted, the opinion said.

"It may well be that Ms. Hollander, like many victims of traumatic injury, only gradually came to understand the full extent of her injuries," it said. But it said she knew she was injured immediately.



- Pre-Registering for 2006 Classes
- Bi-Lingual (Spanish) Courses
- Excellent Placement Record -92% Success Rate
- Financial Aid Available for Those Who Qualify
- Prepare for the Nevada State Exam

902 W. Owens | Las Vegas, NV 89106
702-636-8686 | www.expertisebeauty.com

“After graduating from the Expertise Cosmetology Institute, I immediately landed the perfect opportunity at Hot Headz Salon... Money's great and my schedule is MY SCHEDULE. Thanks, Expertise”

—Ms. Kris, Las Vegas Class of 2002