



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

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

Dear Deanna!

How do I apologize for interfering in my best friend's marriage? I want to apologize to her but I don't know what to say to her without any physical confrontation. There were some things that I did and said that caused problems in her relationship. I just want to apologize and let her know that I didn't mean to come between her and her husband. How do I apologize?

Hurting  
Oklahoma City, OK

Dear Hurting:

You owe an apology to her husband as well because your actions affected him, too. You're an adult and know you shouldn't do anything to jeopardize another person's relationship. If you did something so bad that it would get physical, you should communicate with a card or a phone call. Then again, if this is your friend and you truly have her best interests at heart, you should be able to respectfully apologize face-to-face without drama, and keep it moving.

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Dear Deanna!

I'm 24 yrs old and my girlfriend is 30. We've lived together for a year but she recently said that she can't live with anyone because she's too picky and needs her space. We've made long-term plans for the future and I don't see those plans working if we aren't around each other. She works and I go to school full-time. Am I wrong for giving up and moving on, or do I stay around and work through these issues?

Anonymous Male  
Online Reader

Dear Anonymous:

You're ahead of the game because you get the idea that she doesn't want you. When someone pulls out the old "I need space" excuse they're simply saying, "Get away so I can sort my life, be alone or see other people." You may want to put the brakes on any joint long-term plans because your relationship is going to end. You already know this and should continue to plan your life and not feel guilty about moving on.

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Dear Deanna!

I'm 20 years old and recently lost my virginity. For some reason, my mom didn't take this well. Ever since she found out, she has been on me about everything I do and she questions my actions all the time. Now she is beginning to falsely accuse me of being promiscuous. I have a full-time job; I go to college and do everything to prove that I'm not what she thinks. She is making my life a living hell. What do I do?

Miserable Daughter  
Online Reader

Dear Miserable Daughter:

It's time you move out and get your own place. You're no longer a child in your mother's eyes and it's hard for her to view you as a big girl doing big girl things. If you want to get her off your back, be an adult and become independent, handle your business and become the woman you want to be. Eventually, your mother will see that you're making good decisions, being responsible and she'll accept the fact you're growing up and sex is a part of that process.

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# Brown partner goes to court

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) - The woman who claims to be James Brown's fourth wife wants half of the singer's estate and to be allowed back into the South Carolina home she was locked out of soon after his death.

Tomi Rae Hynie's lawyer said she filed a petition in Aiken County probate, claiming that she is the surviving spouse of the singer and entitled to part of his estate, according to court documents obtained by the Associated Press.

She wants the court to allow her to return to Brown's Beech Island home to retrieve "personal possessions" that belong to her and their 5-year-old son, including furniture she picked out for the home, according to the court papers.

"She's not asking the court to live there," said Robert Rosen, Hynie's attorney. "They locked her out and wouldn't let her in but she has a right to go in and get her stuff — furniture, her clothing, her son's toys. They keep saying that they're going to do it, but they never do it, so we're going to ask a judge to order them to do it."

Brown's attorney and trustee, Buddy Dallas, said Hynie never asked for any personal items from the singer's home.

"She never requested anything," Dallas said. "She's used a camera crew and a

## Hate

(Continued from Page 6) vador found a wooden cross burning on their front lawn just weeks after they moved in. Earlier last year, a Latino teenager in Houston was brutally beaten and sodomized while one attacker screamed "White Power!" The victim barely survived, and one attacker was sentenced to life in prison.

"I've been doing (Hispanic advocacy work) for a long, long time and the atmosphere has never been as poisonous as it has been in the last few years," said Lisa Navarrete, a vice president at the National Council of La Raza. "The level of vitriol is new."

Increasingly, fear permeates many Hispanic communities as individuals and businesses are targeted. Last year, La Raza held a workshop at its annual convention titled "Keeping Our Institutions Safe."

"It was very well attended, unfortunately," Navarrete said.



James Brown's partner, Tomi Rae Hynie, wipes her eye during an interview Dec. 26, the day after Brown died. She says she faces a "long hard battle" to get anything from his estate for herself and the couple's son.

lawsuit. I'm sure the court will inquire into it and make a proper determination."

Hynie would not talk about the particulars of the petition at that time, but told The Associated Press by phone, "I have a long, hard battle to fight for my

husband's rights, for my rights and for my son's rights that have been completely violated during this time. I am his wife. It's my home."

Dallas would not say how much the estate is worth and the court papers do not provide an estimate.

Brown died Dec. 25 in an Atlanta hospital. His body remains in a sealed, gold casket in an undisclosed location awaiting a decision on where to bury it, said Charles Reid, manager of the C.A. Reid Funeral Home in Augusta, Ga., which handled Brown's funeral.

Hynie, who was a backup singer for Brown, and the young son were not included in the singer's will, filed Jan. 18 in Aiken County. The will names Brown's six adult children and calls for many of the soul legend's personal possessions, like clothes, jewelry, boats and automobiles, to be divided among them.

Brown's trust is separate from his will and contains most of the singer's primary assets, including music rights and his 60-acre Beech Island home.

"We say the will, since it omitted her, is not valid and that the trust is not valid for a variety of reasons," Rosen said.

Brown's attorneys contend that Hynie is not Brown's widow because she was still married to another

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Chicago, 1893  
Black doctor performs first successful heart operation.

North Pole, 1909  
A black man is on top of the world.

Harlem, 1920's  
An American Renaissance.

Tuskegee, 1941  
Pilots prove heroism has no color.

Brooklyn, 1947  
Baseball shows us courage, its #42.

Montgomery, 1955  
Woman remains seated. And stands for justice.

DC, 1963  
A man inspires a nation to dream together.

Celebrates Black History

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