



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

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

Dear Deanna!

I allowed a friend and her three small kids to move in with me. Her children are misbehaved, they lack manners and I feel like a hostage in my home. I stay in my room with the door locked because they are always asking questions, bothering me and they never sit down. I've discussed this with her and now I want to put them out. My walls are ruined, furniture dirty and I'm willing to toss our friendship behind this. Am I wrong?

Stressed Out  
Online Reader

Dear Stressed:

The moment you began to feel like a hostage is when you should've given your friend and her three terrors the boot. You're doing a favor, and if she can't tame her kids and let them know they're not in a barn, they need to go. Have a talk with your friend, point out the damages and if she's willing to pay, give her another chance. The second chance should be temporary while she finds a place, and the kids must behave. If she doesn't comply, open the door and tell her good-bye.

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Dear Deanna!

I was an innocent victim when a fight started among my friends. I had nothing to do with it. So after we went to court and everyone was convicted but me, I ended my friendship with everyone involved. They are now calling me a traitor and threatening me. They were all fighting over a boy and have criminal records. I'm tempted to become friends again just to get them off of my back, but I don't trust them. What should I do?

Pam  
St. Louis, MO

Dear Pam:

You learned a lesson quick after getting beat up behind an issue that wasn't yours. You're doing the right thing because you escaped trouble and jail once and it's wise to cut your ties with your loser friends. You should stay clear of them because they will certainly set you up in order to get even. Don't sacrifice yourself, but instead, find a new group of friends and give the old ones your backside to kiss and keep it moving.

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Dear Deanna!

I have a sister that is allowing her teen daughter to take birth control pills. I disagree with this because she is being encouraged to have sex at a young age. This is irresponsible and my sister needs to listen to me. Other family members are split on this issue but I refuse to back down. We are at the point where I'm thinking about getting child protective services or anyone else involved to get my niece removed from the home. Any suggestions I should take?

Myra  
Charlotte, NC

Dear Myra:

You need to mind your business and be glad that your sister is preventing teen pregnancy. Obviously your niece is hot in the pants and her mother is making her be responsible. You look like a fool right now because you don't have a clue about what's really going on other than rudely giving your opinions. Again, the best suggestion is to mind your own household and if your sister wants your two-bit advice or help, wait and let her ask for it.

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

# Still no trial date for R. Kelly

CHICAGO (AP) - Since being charged with child pornography five years ago for allegedly videotaping sex acts with a young teenager, R. Kelly has had six best-selling albums, three nationwide tours, a multitude of hits and awards — but no trial.

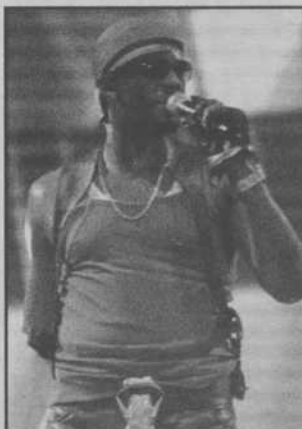
A series of sometimes bizarre events, including a judge's tumble from a ladder and a case of appendicitis, have delayed the 40-year-old R&B superstar's trial far longer than the norm. Kelly is due in a Chicago courtroom tomorrow for yet another status hearing, but there's still no trial date in sight as he prepares to release a new album on May 29.

Other celebrity trials, including Michael Jackson's, have long since begun and ended since Kelly's indictment. And judging by how long it usually takes such cases to run their course, Kelly's trial should have finished years ago, legal observers say.

"Five years is a long time," said Michael Helfand, a Chicago attorney with no links to Kelly's case. "Most child pornography cases find themselves in a courtroom within a year or two."

While suspects have a right to demand a swift trial, they're not obliged to ask for one — especially if they calculate that speed isn't in their best interests.

Kelly's lawyer's may figure that the delays have worked in their client's favor,



R. KELLY

and not only because they've given him the chance to keep working and making millions.

"You may have a jury that's going to come in and say, 'So this happened in the 1990s and this is 2007? I'm just not buying it,'" Helfand said.

Messages left for Kelly's attorneys were not returned, and prosecutors declined to comment.

Kelly representative Allan Mayer says he was told the trial could get under way early this summer. "But," he added, "I've been told 'early in the summer' for the past three years now."

The hit-maker, born Robert Sylvester Kelly, was charged in 2002 after the tape was leaked to the media and bootlegged copies hit the streets nationwide.

Authorities said the girl on the tape was as young as 13 when it was made.

Kelly pleaded not guilty and has said he intends to survive his legal tribulations.

"I'm going through my own struggle ...and you're either gonna fold or you're going to stand," he told The Associated Press in 2005, "and I believe in standing."

Presiding Judge Vincent Gaughan seemed close to setting a trial date last year. Then he fell off a ladder at home, sending him to the hospital with multiple fractures.

By the time he recovered, Kelly needed emergency surgery for a burst appendix, causing him to miss a February status hearing.

Kelly's attorneys haven't even conceded he's on the videotape, saying his likeness may have been computer generated. And they've already tried to raise doubts about the identity and age of the girl in the recording.

Prosecutors initially concluded Kelly made the approximately 15-minute recording when he was in his 30s, somewhere between November 1997 and February 2002.

But his attorneys said that 51-month span made it impossible for them to prepare a defense. The judge agreed, and prosecutors later narrowed the time frame down to between January 1998 and October 2000.

The judge ruled last year that he'll allow the media and public to view the videotape, dismissing objections from both prosecutors and defense attorneys. They argued the video is so lewd it would

embarrass the girl involved, who is now in her twenties.

Scheduling also has been complicated by market demand for Kelly's lawyer. Ed Genson, highly sought by the rich and famous for his persuasive powers with jurors, currently represents Conrad Black, the media mogul on trial in Chicago for allegedly helping to plunder millions of dollars from a newspaper conglomerate.

Kelly won a Grammy in 1997 for the gospel-like song, "I Believe I Can Fly," although his biggest hits are sexually charged songs like "Bump 'n Grind" and "Ignition."

Since being charged, Kelly has released six albums — most of them million-sellers. His current single, "I'm a Flirt," is in the top 20, and he's finishing 10 more chapters of his running R&B opus, "Trapped in the Closet."

Kelly's also written a new song, "Rise Up," about healing in the aftermath of the Virginia Tech shootings; 100 percent of the net proceeds from the song's sale are going to a victims' memorial fund.

"He's always been known as one of the hardest workers in the industry," said Eric Bradley, music director at Chicago's popular B96 radio station. "All this has made him work even harder. He's a machine, artistically."

But a conviction could (See R. Kelly, Page 12)

## Usher: Mother no longer managing

NEW YORK (AP) - Usher's mother has been his manager since he was a teen, but now the superstar says he wants her to be just "mom."

The Grammy winner confirmed Monday that Jonnetta Patton is no longer in charge of his career, but denied the break was due to any rift.

"She and I are on great terms and support each other in our life's endeavors. We are both very happy but are now working in different areas of the business," he said in a statement to The Associated Press.

"This is great for me because it means I now get to have my mother strictly as my mother with no added pressure."

Usher said he believed that by ending his professional relationship with his mother, it would bring them

closer. "At this time in my life, I am simply more interested in building the strength of my family. And in order to do that, I feel it's best to separate my business life from my personal life," he said.

This is the second major change this year for Usher, 28.

In March, he announced his engagement to his long-time girlfriend, stylist Tameka Foster.

Rumors have swirled that Foster would replace Patton as Usher's manager, but the singer said: "She has no aspirations of becoming my manager or any other artist's manager."

Usher is slated to release the follow-up to 2004's "Confessions," which sold 9 million copies in the United States, later this year.

**Stacie Truesdell for Ward 5,  
Las Vegas City Council**

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