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## Step-Parenting \"whatelse can kids do? \"

Posted by Lin1on1 - 2006/03/05 21:35

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Please try and help me here as much as you can so that I can understand and help 2 teenagers cope with a disgruntled step-mom. She never seems to be happy or pleased with anything these children try to achieve and always puts her children from these teens first and these 2 teens are secondary. There has to be something out there-or advice and getting her to read any books is blowing sand in the wind. Advice for her is a waste of time...esp....when she convinces Daddy-kins his kids from previous marriage are BRATS! I think this is so not good .....whatcha all think? Please give out positive thoughts and not pity-wagon excuses on her behalf...these teens are in a turmoil at present as I type this.

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## Re:Step-Parenting \"whatelse can kids do? \"

Posted by Mystique - 2006/03/05 21:43

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If she refuses any outside advice the best thing I would think would be talking to dad.. maybe he will listen because if I was in a situation and chose a man that treated my own child this way I would think twice about my choice. He may need counseling on what ways to deal with this but in the meantime he may make up for what she doesn't give his children by making sure he is always available to them and treats them all equally. If she sees him treating them all equal maybe she will put forth more effort. The teens may also need counseling because they may feel rebellious toward her as well and it's a vicious cycle. Counseling for them may give them coping mechanisms. At least it's a way for the kids to be able to have some normalcy or feel they are ok and be able to handle the situation without losing self-esteem.. do the achievements for themselves first not for mom's acceptance. Hopefully their dad will show pride in those achievements.

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## Re:Step-Parenting \"whatelse can kids do? \"

Posted by Lin1on1 - 2006/03/06 13:53

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Thx Mystique:

I have tried to talk to the father and he too ...sides with the wifey...which is so sadddd.

The teenagers are already showing signs of rejection+there is not a thing I can do to help.

All I can do is relay what messages I can to them,to show support and if danger is lurking...to get help.

No woories tho' there are people keeping an eye on this step-mom.And oneday her behavior will catch up to her...and hopefully the husband sees the light and...gets the family back to where it is....she has to understand that hubby came with baggage and that it was his 2 sons from a previous marriage.And just because she has two children with him...that the other two older children should be ignored.

What is so upsetting is the older son is so bitter now....cause he don't get the love he needs and...parents are suppose to be protecting him and nourishing him thru the teenage years....and with Dad away at work...and not home on a reg basis-it proves difficult...I just want the best for these teenagers...and wish the step-mother would be nicer and stop being nasty.But I love your comments...I wish there were more to support me here though!

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## Re:Step-Parenting \"whatelse can kids do? \"

Posted by Mystique - 2006/03/06 19:56

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Lin, whew it does sound like a sad situation.. what ages are the boys? it makes a difference from 13-19 ;) It's real hard to give advice not knowing the parties involved and hearing you say that dad isn't much help, assuming he's trying to make this marriage work and partly because as you say he isn't home a lot.. but I'll leave you with just a thought.

It seems you have taken the boys into your heart and that they (one or both) have confided in you? If that is the case maybe you can help more than you realize just by supplying them with an adult they feel that they can go to talk to, just knowing that there is someone that will listen and care for them to vent to. And you being so compassionate for them will be able to give them that and possibly keep them in the right track as older teens can give up and become rebellious and lost so it's an important time in their lives and I'm glad they have you at least to give them a little guidance where the parents aren't. Also, you may try to get them to sit down and have a heart to heart with their parents.. sometimes things are unsaid that needs to be.. sometimes in the turmoil they don't feel they can.. but if they approach them in the right way and let them know they really would like to work things out so that they can all get along.. a good heart to heart can't hurt. All good parents want to know they sometimes just don't take the time to ask in their busy day and maybe if they sit

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down and talk without accusations just expressing feelings with an open mind to try to accept the new mom and make the new family work it just might open the parents eyes a little. Hope that helps sweetie, but glad you are there for them and since they know that at least they have one person they can turn to.

Good Luck Lin <3

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## Re:Step-Parenting \"whatelse can kids do? \"

Posted by grizzlys4 - 2006/03/06 22:55

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Lin,

Just wanted you to know that I just don't have any experience in this area and don't want to be one of those who acts like a know-it-all when I've never been thru that!! But.....I do think it's awesome, like Mystique mentioned, that you are a soft place for them to fall!!! That may well BE the answer and blessing in their life for the moment that helps them thru!!! I wish the best for you all!!!! :) :)

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## Re:Step-Parenting \"whatelse can kids do? \"

Posted by Lin1on1 - 2006/03/06 23:26

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Hi my new friends and my support:

The boys are ages 15+14....and it is a sadddd situation..because they are my grandsons!!

I have tried my best to talk to the boys and tell them I love them and I'm here for them...I tried to write a nice letter to the step-mother in Feb....to make her understand that grandma's need to be involved with the gr-kids also.And to my dismay she refused to acknowledge my love for my precious gr-sons.

I focused on the wellness of my gr-sons and for her to let the past alone and to move forward...and to heal! Only to be called by the local..police...who he said she claimed I was harrassing her...and I was not..all I wanted was to talk to my gr-sons....and make sure they understood...I love them and am here for them.Its a longgg story that involves alot of past hurts- but still she should not hold old wounds in this grave situation....god knows ...and heaven forbid my oldest gr-son don't act out his pain and bitterness!

My being estranged from my daughter has not a dayum thing to do with my relationship with my gr-sons...and I wish her and the Father would see that! I bet once the boys see me and know I love and care ...they would change there attitudes...because they love me and always have...my last words to my oldest gr-son ...2 weeks ago ...was...Don't be bitter at grandma hon....I never hurt you nor will ever hurt you...that I am here for you no matter what!"

There its all out now and I feel relieved I said it- that these 2 teenagers are my gr- sons.

If only the step-mother would stop being so selfish and realize the world does not revolve around her and her 2 kids ...that it involves her hubby and his 2 other kids from my daughter.Its a long story....that involves her ...and my x-son-in-law ...way back to 93'- and my lil- gr-sons were just babies....so can you imagine the hurt?

What started all this was the abuse she brought upon the boys...and I lashed out at her...bout 3 yrs ago...I do not condone a step-mom...shoving a kids face in his bed clothes he wet ...during the night and placing his face in his wet sheets! Know you see where I am coming from?! am so outraged that she still can look after these kids ...I wanted to raise these boys...but the parents are to pig-headed to allow me that priveledge.To me they are guilty of child abuse! And dammit- let them goooo....unless the Dad can step up to the plate and smarten the wifey up...and start the healing for these precious souls! He'd better hurry- cause time is running out....esp my patience.Last resort- call social services & report her again ...or take them both to court!

I'm sooooo upset and there is no need for me to feel this way but ...hey...I feel for those boys ...dammit if they get hurt any more than they already have!!

Please pray for there safety- and the dayum step-mother. I deserve the right to be upset- its only natural being their Grandmother-hugsss E1 and I'm off to try and sleep! Oh God help me ! And keep my grandsons safe!

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## Re:Step-Parenting \"whatelse can kids do? \"

Posted by pmpnjc16 - 2006/03/10 03:57

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Seriously? Seriously?

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## Re:Step-Parenting \"whatelse can kids do? \"

Posted by TigerRose - 2006/03/10 06:44

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I was raised by an abusive father who cut off contact with my mother's family and some loving family members on his side. As a teen I didn't feel like there was a soft place to fall other than my mother and her health was bad so I didn't want to burden her at all. Just a couple of years ago I found out that there were family members that tried to keep in contact and they said they wanted to take us and shelter us, love us, and let us know we had a place to fall into. Just realizing they were being honest has healed so much... just knowing it after all these years. It meant I wasn't alone just isolated by a self-centered abusive parent. Though I do wish I'd known then.

Since the kids are 14 and 15 years old, it will help to know that there is a soft place to fall. Since there has been a lot of hurt and potential for further hurt that will be more destructive to the boys than anyone else. Here is what I suggest (I won't claim to be an expert but this is only my opinion and my experience)

Keep your relationship with the grandsons separate from the parents. The step mother is obviously wrapped up in her own issues so I wouldn't even try getting through to her- just let her be.

No matter what the parents do or what you say- the kids will love thier parents. So like divorcing parents are advised- If you get to talk to them -don't bad mouth the parents to the kids. The one thing the kids don't need is major fighting between their loved ones- it might bring them guilt. Just listen, encourage them to do thier best and do what is right, and get to know the kids and the things they truely love.

If the parents don't want you to see the kids then send cards during the holidays, special events, and birthdays - Christmas, V-day, Easter- etc. Don't try to contact them all the time (ie 2-3 times a week) but try 1 time a month. Maybe you can set up a scheduled call. Maybe you can call them on special days as well as send a card. If you get to talk to the kids invite them to call you anytime.

As far as Children Protective Services go- They will depend on what the teen says unless there are physcial proof. (ie Dr, teacher, etc has to make notes of injuries) because they are 14 and 15 years old, some agencies will believe the kids are old enough to know that they need to call. They are also old enough to make it hard to press charges against the parents if the teen does not want to. There has to be evidence of abuse (bruises, injuries, witnesses) to counter what the kids say. So unless there is hard evidence...

(this was told to me when I went to inquire about my siblings' kids being treated horribly by thier step dad- it was all about the age because the court system treats 13 + years a little differently than they would a child).

In some states there is something known as "Grandparents rights". I have seen it used only a few times. If you are reasonable when dealing with the parents (ie you don't undermine them), non harrassing, you try to respect the parents wishes short of closing contact with the kids, and don't stir trouble but the parents keeps you from having any contact with the kids- some states will give you 'visitation rights' or "contact rights" it's something you have to investigate in your own state, I don't know what guidelines are, if any. There are a few states that would back the parents no matter their reasoning is behind their denying you contact.

Basically if you take the 'high road' and truely mean it the kids will know you are a soft landing spot that they need to survive. Kids can be insightful to what is going on between adults even if they don't understand the reasoning behind it.

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## Re:Step-Parenting \"whatelse can kids do? \"

Posted by pmpnjc16 - 2006/03/10 07:09

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I don't think Lin1on1 will be coming back here anymore, and she knows why i'm saying that. :dry:

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## Re:Step-Parenting \"whatelse can kids do? \"

Posted by Lin1on1 - 2006/04/10 16:26

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Oh my gawddd!

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I am back and hey - I have my life here in BC Canada...also...excuse me for not being here as often as I should...thanks all that have replied with kind and affection in my plight of my gr-sons! And its all in the hands of the LAW now...and I'm sitting here and waiting for the outcome...in meantime...have a wonderful Easter everyone as I am ...and been so busy with Spring...its wonderful....and my flowers are looking awesome...the bulbs I planted last Fall.....:P  
And guess what- I am backkkkkk....so there...missed you all...hugs n ...well wishes...welcome to ....newcomers! Lin1on1 (flower)

HAPPY EASTER ...and be safe yall!

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## Re:Step-Parenting \"whatelse can kids do? \"

Posted by pmpnjc16 - 2006/04/11 10:23

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i am not comfortable with you here anymore. :unsure:

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## Re:Step-Parenting

Posted by Mystique - 2006/04/11 20:45

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pmpnjc16 wrote:

i am not comfortable with you here anymore. :unsure:

I feel ya JC .. really. \*hugs our other lil bro\* Don't worry nobody can affect you here unless you allow them to ;) Remember that. I do understand though, better than you think.

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## Re:Step-Parenting \"whatelse can kids do? \"

Posted by Lin1on1 - 2006/04/11 22:02

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Whoa! Stop this nonsense JC-this is a site where I feel safe and the people here are what holds me together...if you have a problem....take it somewhere...else....I'm not into...childish antics.....only helping others and the nice people helping me....and I just happen to love this site...no1 is going to steer me away from here....Have a nice day...and please reserve negative comments away from my posts..please!

I put my post here for a reason...and that was to get the love and support from my fellow friends that have been supportive towards me on more ways than one.....

And Myst- thx also ....I am trying to hold my own here and keep a stiff upper lip....I take no sides, like I said am only here for my sanity and my love of helping others with my posts :)

Do not read mine if you so not wish too...its for those I love to help...or they can give me good advice...its like my very own ...personal STARTINGOVER! Have a nice day!!

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## Re:Step-Parenting

Posted by Lin1on1 - 2006/04/11 22:06

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Hi-

I take great pride and self-indulgence in my typin at this mssg-board!

I am adult enough to not allow...certain things bother me..its trivial...tee hee....but your comments are acceptable ....LOL

I feel like an angel here....smile.....have a nice day!

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## Re:Step-Parenting

Posted by Tara - 2006/04/11 22:22

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Please re-read the forum guidelines before posting any more messages. Those choosing not to follow them will be

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banned from this site!

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