

Re: seeking information

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- *From:* "JCav" <j35cav@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 1 Oct 2006 06:33:26 -0700
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I certainly agree with you about the pets, children thing, because I chose them and have a responsibility, not to mention a desire, to stay true to my choices. As far as a parent goes, I didn't choose them. Heck, I don't think she really even chose me. I am an IUD baby. I do like your suggestion about each of us kicking in something toward her living expenses; the problem is she doesn't want anything to do with any of us, even the youngest except for the fact that he puts up with her abuse. If you stand up for yourself, she writes you off as no longer her offspring. She takes honor thy father and mother to a new extreme. She gets barely over \$600 in disability so really we would have a long way to go to supplement that, but really the major problem is she has stated in no uncertain terms that she isn't going anywhere and we're going to have to carry her out in a circus tent (hey, these are her words not mine, she seems proud to weigh over 400 pounds and not be able to walk). I suggested to my brother that when he gets married, just sell the house, pack up his stuff while she's sleeping and let her figure out what she's going to do next. If she wants any help, guess she'll have to call and make nice. I really am a very forgiving person and have tried to patch things up, but she just calls me filthy names because I won't be suckered into her expectation of aiding and abetting her (like refusing to buy her candy and ice cream). This is a curious side note, but I recently saw a show where that 700+ pound guy was in the hospital and his wife was bringing him chips and soda and fast food and everyone was wondering aloud why she would do that knowing that it's killing him. From hearing her talk about it, you would think he was the sweetest, most loving person in the world, but I just wonder if she was covering for some kind of abuse on his part. I don't know that for a fact, but I have a pretty good sense of what a bed-ridden person could or would use as leverage for getting what they want. I guess it's hard to understand when you haven't been there. Just like him, I am certain it will kill her too, and then maybe on her deathbed, she will tell me she loves me. Time to go to a codependents anonymous meeting.

Sandi wrote:

"JCav" <j35cav@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:1159701491.577610.208160@xx

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Phyllis Nilsson wrote:

"With the price of cigarettes, he'd probably be able to get his car fixed if he gave them up."

I was kinda thinking this but didn't want to sound like a hardass or a stick in the mud. We all have our little vices that make life a little more interesting or tolerable, but we have to know when to sacrifice for our own well-being.

Kind of on topic, I wonder what others' opinions are on being "obligated" to help care for parents who aren't elderly, but rather their health problems and disabilities are a result of poor choices rather than aging. What then? The scenario: Three siblings, 1 divorced male long-haul truck driver, 1 single male who owns his own home and is looking to get married, 1 married daughter with 4 children. Mother divorced, 56 years old (so not elderly) but disabled and unable to work for the past year due to complications of diabetes, and super morbidly obese, mostly confined to a wheelchair. Okay, you guessed it; this is my family's situation. My mother has been morbidly obese and diabetic for over 10 years, and at least 5 years ago, resigned herself to a wheelchair. My youngest brother is really the only one that has any room for her (my older brother rents a room from our younger brother as he is only home 1 week out of 5; and I have a 3 bedroom home with 6 people and refuse to put all the children in 1 room or have any of them share a room with her), and the situation seemed to be okay while she was able to pay her way, though it certainly wasn't ideal. She is very abrasive and hostile, yells obscenities, and honestly she is extremely lazy and slobbish. About a year ago, she was hospitalized for a DVT and then transferred to a skilled nursing facility. She actually stayed with me for a couple of months but her abuse was outlandish. Even picking her up from the hospital, she had threatened by 4-year-old that "if you don't shut up, I'm gonna shove my fist down your throat." I absolutely refuse to have my children around her anymore because no matter how much you confront her, she always has some sort of "justification" for her behavior. I feel really sorry for my brother because he can't bring himself to tell her to go even though she belittles him, calls him all sorts of filthy obscenities if he doesn't wait on her hand and foot (he finally refused to do her grocery shopping long after I stopped doing it), and even treats his fiancée the same way. I can't tell you the number of times his girlfriend has called me in tears because of the verbal barrages. Makes me wonder if she will eventually say her or me, and he won't be able to bring himself to turn his mother out, and he will end up single and unhappy. He is 34 years old, wants to get married, but has this weight pulling him down. She is not elderly, refuses to change or lose weight and really I think she could go to work if she put her mind to it, she just has no problem with being a leech and feels an entitlement to do so even if it ruins the lives of everyone around her. Truly, I wish I knew what kind of advice to give my brother because he seems so tense

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and fearful that he eventually will have to make a decision between his mom and his girlfriend of 2 years. His fiancée is adamant she "will not live under the same roof as that woman," so is he supposed to pay for 2 homes when they get married next year? Not to mention all the things he does that she can't or won't do; in short order, that home would look like one of those houses that has been condemned as a health hazard. It seems like an impossible situation.

Does she get disability? If so, she should be able to live (albeit modestly) on her own. If she can't, then perhaps a small stipend from each of the three, not just the brother, would enable her to. She doesn't sound like someone that any of the children can live with (except maybe the long-haul trucker who is gone all the time anyway – that's a thought). I wouldn't expose the children to her, but still wouldn't do nothing at all, either.

I'm sure it's apparent from my previous posts, but I feel very strongly that barring some abuse so severe as to warrant removal from the home or criminal prosecution (such as sexual abuse or something equally severe), the fact that a person has a toxic personality isn't enough to merit complete abandonment by one's children. I don't feel, as some here do, that this applies to any family member. If I had a raging alcoholic "mean-drunk" cousin, I certainly wouldn't feel the same obligation to him. But if they did little else but raise you to adulthood, parents are the reason we are here to begin with, and with that, I feel, come certain responsibilities.

To veer completely off-topic, I feel this way about pets, too. I have 3 cats. In recent years I've come less of a "cat person" than I once was. I now find the hair, clawed furniture and catbox/canned food stink much less charming than I did. I'd give anything to buy some new furniture (oooooh, even leather) and know it wouldn't be destroyed in a month, or walk into my house without smelling canned food, which one of my cats has to have because of a medical condition. But I took these fellows on, and they're mine, just like family members, so I wouldn't dream of giving them away or even being particularly cross with them.

Parents, kids and pets. That's my list of unconditional responsibility. I'd expand that to my 87-year-old grandmother in my case, but that's because when I was little she babysat me while my mother worked and was essentially a second parent to me.

YMMV, but to steal a phrase from Judith, it's my opinion, and I am unanimous in it. :)

Sandi