Crotchety father-in-law has run out of friends



JEANNE PHILLIPS

Dear Abby: My husband, "Mark," and his father have a strained relationship due to things that occurred when Mark was growing up. Mark is an only child, and his mother has passed away. Since I met my father-in-law prior to our marriage eight years ago, he has never taken any interest in me, Mark or our children. While he has never been directly unkind to me, every time there is a conversation, he makes negative comments about my profession. (I'm a lawyer.)

I gather from our conversations that he seeks companionship online and has been scammed multiple times by the "friends" he makes. Abby, what are my duties as a daughter-in-law given the relationship? Mark rarely takes his father's calls or answers his questions, so he calls me for help.

Mark's dad has no one else -- no siblings, no spouse, no other children and (from what I can tell) no friends. His requests and issues have become draining. I already have three small children who require most of my attention. I dread talking to him because of the inevitable jabs at lawyers, and he rarely takes my advice anyway. Do I need to keep answering his phone calls and texts? - Had it in North Dakota

Dear Had It: No, you do not have to take your father-in-law's calls if his comments about lawyers offend you. What you do have to do is tell him his jokes are offensive and to cut it out. Then, if he doesn't apologize (and doesn't cut it out), tell your husband you are done dealing with his father and from now on he is going to have to be better about returning the man's phone calls.

Regarding the scams perpetrated by your FIL's online acquaintances, Mark may be able to find help without involving you if he contacts the North Dakota Health and Human Services Adult and Aging Division. (I doubt I needed to tell a lawyer that, but other readers may find it helpful.)

Dear Abby: My friends recently welcomed their first grandchild, but the child's parents won't allow photographs of the baby to be posted on social media until the child can consent. People naturally would love to see pics of the baby, but the parents' policy prevents it. Is this a new trend, or are these parents just weird? Would it be out of line for me to request a pic via email? I'd be happy to sign an NDA! - Questioning the policy

Dear Questioning: I wouldn't call it a new trend. The practice of keeping a child's images out of social media has been quite common for several years, and it's a policy I wholeheartedly endorse. Not only does posting baby pics violate the future privacy of the baby, but it also opens the family up to a shocking range of safety concerns, from identity theft and fraud to kidnapping.

Your request for an emailed image shouldn't cause offense; the worst that can happen is that they'll decline. If the parents agree to send you pictures, do not post them to your own socials. You will not enjoy the repercussions if you do.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren. For nearly four decades, Jeanne Phillips penned this column, which was founded in 1956 by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 270135, Kansas City, MO 64127.

JUMBLE

Answer:

REBUKE MINION VORTEX SONATA WILLOW METHOD

They spent more for the premium cedar fence, but they knew —

IT "WOOD" BE WORTH IT

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
BASKETBALL GOAL SYSTEMS

Boyd County Fiscal Court invites qualified vendors to submit proposals for the Portable Basketball Goal Systems bid package for the Boyd County Sports Complex in Ashland, Kentucky.

All Proposals shall be received in the Boyd County Judge Executive's office no later than 2:00 PM on Thursday, December 3rd, 2026.

For more information and proposal submission instructions, please visit https://boydcountyky.gov/bids-and-rfps/

Published: November 7, 2026

ACTC winter session begins Dec. 14

ACTC RELEASE

ASHLAND For those wanting to get a jump start on the spring semester, Ashland Community and Technical College is offering a few accelerated winter classes, some in-person and some online.

Winter enrollment is open now through Dec. 14 for a four-week session ending Jan. 10.

Winter classes taught in person at Technology Drive campus will be: Cutting Processes, Shielded Metal Arc Welding (and lab), Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (and labs), Gas Metal Arc Welding (and labs) and Welding Certification (and lab).

Online classes taught during the winter session will be: Technical Math, Corequisite Remediation for Technical Math (Workshop), College Algebra, Medical Office Terminology and General Psychology.

For information on registering for these classes, email as_advisors@kctcs.edu.

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

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CLASSIFIEDS! 606-326-2600

YARD SALE!

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Kentucky State University Has An Opening For
FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES EXTENSION AGENT
Dept: Cooperative Extension Program Reports to: Central Area Extension Director
FULL TIME POSITION • WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL FILLED

Extension agents are community-based professionals of Kentucky State University who make a difference by connecting community needs with university resources. Family Consumer Sciences Extension agents develop, conduce and deliver educational programs based on locally identified needs, which lead to improved quality of life for children and families.

JOB DESCRIPTION:
- Work with and/or develop advisory committees to facilitate community involvement in programming.
- Design, implement and evaluate educational programs through virtual and face-to-face in the areas of family resource management and development including child development, financial management, nutrition, and parenting in the county.
- Review the needs within the extension assigned area and support local programs with resource information.
- The FCE programs and training are designed to address social and economic challenges affecting individuals, families and communities through researched-based educational programming.
- Collaborate in internal and external Extension partners.
- Maintain records, clientele sign-in sheets, and submit reports as required by Kentucky Extension Reporting System.
- Collaborate with local community members, partner organizations and Extension faculty to develop and implement educational programming assuring that all citizens have equal access to programming.
- Utilize a variety of educational strategies to implement programming. Examples include informal classes, presentations, media, volunteers, demonstrations, experiential learning, distance learning and group facilitation. Collect evidence of program impact to market, report results and improve the program.

QUALIFICATIONS: Master's degree in child development, family and consumer sciences, or a related field with three to five years' experience also preferred. Bachelor's Degree in any discipline related to Family & Consumer Science, including; Family Development, Human Nutrition, Consumer Economics, or any closely related field is required for consideration with three to five years' experience is likewise preferred.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:
- Ability to use a variety of related software applications; Expert use of Microsoft applications a must: Vista, Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access.
- Ability to utilize social media platforms for programming efforts.
- Ability to develop media resources for programming efforts.
- Knowledge of research and educational capabilities of USDA & the Land Grant system knowledge base.
- Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships.
- Experience working with a wide range of audiences.

WORKING CONDITIONS and PHYSICAL EFFORTS:
- In-state and out-of-state travel required.
- Occasional evening and weekend schedule required.
- Must be able to lift at least 40 lbs. No or very limited exposure to physical risk.
- Requires some standing or walking.
- A valid driver's license and a personal vehicle for official duty travel are required. Mileage will be reimbursed at a rate established by the university.

Contact Information

Kentucky State University is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The functions, qualifications, knowledge/skills, and physical requirements listed in this job description represents the essential duties of the job, which the incumbent must be able to perform wither with or without reasonable accommodation. The Job Functions listed do not necessarily include all activities that the individual may perform.

LEGALS!

SALE for BLUEGRASS FLEET MAINTENANCE, INC. dba AFFORDABLE TOWING
Date of Sale
November 13th, 2026
at 9:00am
Auction will be held at Bluegrass Fleet Maintenance, 101 Armco Blvd. Ashland, Ky. 41101
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VIN: KNADM4A39F6514423

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