

Features



Motown Lowdown

Reham Rana Ruba Leena

The Kozouz sisters answer your relationship questions every Tuesday in The Detroit News. Send your questions to Lowdown@detnews.com or write to Motown Lowdown c/o The Detroit News, 615 W. Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, MI 48226.

Put a muzzle on it; child on leash isn't your business

I see this woman all the time in my neighborhood. She has a 2-year-old son whom she keeps on a leash. It drives me absolutely crazy that this child cannot play like normal children. She is extremely overweight and I believe that she cannot keep up with him, so she has him on a leash like an animal. I really want to say something, but my husband says I am overstepping my bounds. What do you girls think?

— Troubled in Troy

Dear Troubled in Troy:

There is no reason why children should not be treated with the same respect as adults. Throw your husband on a leash and parade him around until she sees you. That should get your point across effectively.

— Leena

No matter what the circumstances are, there is absolutely no reason to treat a child like an animal. It is humiliating and may potentially cause the child emotional or psychological damage. Any child can learn to obey rules if placed in a loving and nurturing environment. You are obviously a good person to seek advice; you should approach your neighbor with care and sincerity. Good luck!

— Ruba

I've worked at the zoo long enough to witness parents or chaperones lose kids several times a day. If a leash is what it takes to make sure her wild child is safe and protected, then so be it.

— Rana

Your husband is right. It is not your child and, frankly, it is not your business. As an outsider looking in, it is easy to pass judgment. Be careful: That is a dangerous game. Until you know the circumstances, you need to trust that the parent knows best. If you have real concern for the well-being of the child, then keep a close eye on the

situation and look for legitimate signs of abuse or neglect.

— Reham

I've dated this girl for almost a year. We have a great time together, and I am so happy when I am with her. She recently broke up with me because she said she cares for me a lot, but that we are not marriage material. Her parents got a divorce when she was younger, and I know that affects her decision. She cannot seem to maintain a long-term relationship. Do I let this go or keep throwing away my pride by trying to convince her otherwise?

— Waylaid in Waterford

Dear Waylaid:

You cannot convince a person to love you. Her excuse sounds like a cop-out to end the relationship. If she doesn't want this, then she shouldn't be worth it to you. Move on!

— Rana

Love has no pride. If you are seriously in love with her, then you will do whatever it takes to keep her!

— Reham

If you really want to be with her, then go for it! Give it your all one last time and try to isolate the real problems. Find out what made her think you were not marriage material. Once you discover the basis for her decision, work on resolving those issues together. Maybe then you can move forward in your relationship.

— Ruba

I don't think that the reason she left is you. She obviously has qualms about long-term relationships that have stemmed from her parents' divorce. She needs time to work out her fear of commitment before she can focus on you. Accept this breakup and, once she resolves her issues, maybe then she'll realize the value of your relationship.

— Leena