

Features



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.

Tell dirty-talking co-worker how conversations are rude

I have a great job and I love what I do, except for one thing. I work in a common area where there are quite a few cubicles. The woman who sits in the cubicle next to me is constantly making and receiving personal phone calls.

Normally, I would not mind; however, these phone calls can get pretty obscene. I seriously cannot believe she has the audacity to make these lewd calls in such a public area. I have given her weird, dirty looks, but I don't think they faze her. What should I do?

— Desperate in Detroit

Dear Desperate:

Say something to the dirty perv. Tell her she's lewd and it needs to stop or you'll go to her boss. Why would you be afraid to speak up to someone so greasy and despicable?

— Rana

This woman is obviously in dire need of attention and must have some serious issues to be so flagrant. Talk to her about this problem and help her become a more respected person in the workplace. You obviously have the wherewithal to lead this woman in the right direction. Don't shy away from a challenging situation.

— Leena

Open up an anonymous e-mail account, such as [icanhear everything.com](http://icanheareverything.com). Every time you hear her say something nasty, quickly repeat it in an e-mail message to her. When you have had enough fun, send her a final message telling her that you can hear her conversations and you don't appreciate it. Maybe then she'll get the point that the office is not an appropriate environment for her dirty phone conversations.

— Ruba

Oh, stop your eavesdropping and let the woman have some fun. If it's too much for you to handle, take a coffee break, turn up your radio or

concentrate harder on your work.

— Reham

My wife and I have a wonderful relationship and a beautiful 6-year-old boy. That is where the problem lies. He is a very smart boy and knows how to work both sides. If he can't get his way with me, he often runs to my wife, and she usually gives in to him, thereby taking away my authority. What really gets on my nerves is that she knows he came to me first and knows how I responded. I have tried talking to her, and she usually just blows it off and says I'm being too sensitive. How do I get her to see that we need to be a team?

— Frustrated in Ferndale

Dear Frustrated:

Have you heard the saying, strength in numbers? You both need to agree on right and wrong and then exercise it religiously. She has a responsibility, and she seems to be blowing it off. Do not let this go any further. You may consider taking parenting classes together. There is a great Web site called loveandlogic.com. The group offers advice for parents on how to handle difficult situations with children. They also conduct seminars. Check it out and see if there is one coming to your area.

— Ruba

It sounds as if your wife may be acting out against you. This may be a symptom of a problem she has with you about something else. Sit down and talk to her and delve into the deeper issues.

— Reham

You're absolutely right. By continuing to allow this manipulative behavior, she is taking away all your authority. Wifey needs to get a grip and display agreement in front of your son even if she does not agree with you. This united front will show the boy who's boss.

— Leena

See the sisters on Fox2 Friday

The four Kozouz sisters will answer your questions live from 7-9 a.m. Friday on "Fox2 News Morning." They will appear with Lee Thomas at Caribou Coffee in downtown Birmingham, on Woodward Avenue, south of Maple. They will take calls from viewers and dole out their characteristically good advice.