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, the phone calls can get pretty obscene. I seriously cannot believe she has the audacity to make those loud 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 loud and it needs to stop or you’ll go to her boss. Why would you be afraid to speak up to someone so gross and despicable?

— Raha

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

— Leena

Open up an anonymous e-mail account, such as incognito everything.com. Every time you hear her say something nasty, quickly repeat it in an email message to her. When she has 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. It’s far more 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 10-year-old daughter. She is the one who makes life problematic. 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 he knows he can come to me first and know how I responded. I have tried talking to her, and she usually just gives in to him 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. Let us do that go any further. You may consider taking parenting classes together. There is a great Web site called loveminstudy.com. The group offers advice for parents on how to handle difficult situations with their kids. They also conduct seminars. Check it out and see if there is one coming to your area.

— Ruba

It sounds as if you’re 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. Wiley needs to get a grip and display agreement in front of your son even if she doesn’t agree with you. That is where the line will show the boy who’s boss.

— Leena

See the sisters on Fox2 Friday

The four Kozar 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 dive into their characteristically good advice.