

Shiftless sister must grow up; it might as well be now



**ANN
LANDERS**

Dear Ann: My husband and I recently purchased a home. My 21-year-old sister, "Lily," asked if she could rent a room so she could go to college.

We agreed that she would pay us \$200 a month, which would include meals and utilities.

Since then Lily has made no attempt to go to college, and her rent has never been on time or in the full amount.

She just told me she is two months pregnant. She is not married, and the father of the baby is nowhere to be found.

Lily has decided to keep the baby and continue to live with us until she finishes school in four or five years.

Ann, I have a 4-year-old son and am looking forward to having him start school. I do not want another child in my home. My sister's irresponsibility should not have to mess up my life.

If I ask Lily to move out, my family would consider me a terrible person. If she stays, I will be

raising another child, something I am not prepared to do.

I want to give Lily a hand, but I'm not sure how to do it. Please give me some help. — A MOM AGAIN IN TAMPA

Dear Tampa: Has Lily applied to a college? Urge her to do so, and suggest that she apply for a student loan as well — one that will cover her tuition and living expenses. Then help her find an apartment, and move her out.

Where are your parents? Are they able to help? Every effort should be made to locate the father of Lily's child. He is legally responsible to pay support and should not be let off the hook.

I agree that you should not allow your sister to mess up your life. Don't weaken and let her stay with you, no matter what. Insist that she take responsibility for herself. It's about time.

Dear Ann: I beg you to print this letter in your column for the benefit of all mothers and children who have birthday parties in their homes.

Unless everyone in the class is invited to the party, please put the invitations in the mail. There is nothing more humiliating for a child of any age than to watch party invitations being handed out in class and not receive one.

Ann, you would be amazed at how often this happens. If you can spare even a handful of kids from being hurt by printing this letter, you will have performed a valuable service. — NO NAME, NO CITY, PLEASE

Dear No: Here's the letter. However, I cannot understand why a teacher would permit this to happen. Surely teachers must be aware of the hurt feelings of children who are left out.

Dear Ann: I'm a 15-year-old guy who has taken saxophone lessons for six years, and I'm good at it. The trouble is, we have too many sax players in the school band and the director switched me to drums.

Mom won't let me practice at home because she says it gives her a headache. — ARNIE IN CHICAGO

Dear Arnie: Practice in the music room at school. And P.S.: Give serious consideration to switching to the piccolo. Piccolo players are in short supply, and they do not cause headaches.

Ann Landers appears daily in Features. You can write her at P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562. For a personal reply, enclose a stamped, addressed envelope.

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