

# Wife has problems with home buyers

Dear Dr. Brothers: My wife is driving me nuts. Every two years or so, she decides that she hates our house and always has, and now we must put it on the market and move somewhere else. Well, we've done this twice and the house hasn't sold because she is very stubborn about the price, the repairs, etc. She actually alienates the potential buyers. Now she wants to sell again. What is the matter with her, in your opinion?

— L.W.

**Dear L.W.: Your wife sounds very conflicted. Although home buying and selling is always a stressful series of events, if people are really motivated and at least somewhat reasonable, they will try very hard to make the deals work. In your wife's case, she is motivated to put the house on the market, but it doesn't sound like she really wants to move. Do you have a real estate agent? If you have been trying to sell the home yourself, I highly recommend putting it in the hands of a professional who can do the negotiating for you and your wife. This way, there will be less chance of personalities entering into the equation when it comes time to settle on a price and terms.**

**But before you go through all this again, perhaps you should sit down with your wife and see if something else is really bothering her. Why does she "hate" the house? That's a strong emotion. Could it be that there is something else about her life that she would like to change, and the place you live is just the easiest thing to latch on to? It sounds like you've been patient, but now is the time to dig a little deeper to find out what's up with her. Just be prepared for anything — your wife might want to distance herself from you, not just her house. On the other hand, a new kitchen might be all she really wants!**

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Dear Dr. Brothers: I have a young child who is almost ready to send to nursery school. I know from how she plays that she is a free spirit



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**

• Ask Dr. Brothers

and needs to go at her own speed rather than sit in a circle or be bogged down with lots of input. Yet the other moms I have met are all into flashcards, computers, toys that talk and teach, and so forth. We are more into clay, finger paints and nature walks. Is it wrong to want her to do her own thing?

— C.Z.

**Dear C.Z.: It is great that you know your child so well. Many parents who are busy with work or personal things don't have a clear idea of who their children are, what their learning styles consist of or what kind of program would be best for their education. Then these same parents wonder why things aren't going so well at nursery school! I think you have some options. You could form a play group of like-minded parents and kids to supplement whatever each of you decides to do more formally for the children. You could homeschool her and tailor the curriculum and pace of things to suit her. You could choose a Montessori school, which doesn't test or grade and lets kids choose their own activities.**

**A recent small study comparing some Montessori students with non-Montessori students in Milwaukee showed that many of the 5-year-old Montessori kids scored higher in math, reading and social development than their public-school peers, and the 12-year-old Montessori kids also outscored their peers in social and behavioral development. While this isn't conclusive, it might give parents like you, who are worried about competitiveness in school, a chance to let their children ease into the situation.**

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## Former attorney general could be out of politics

MISSION (AP) — Johnson County District Attorney Phill Kline may be getting out of politics, at least as an elected official.

Kline, who was appointed to the position after losing reelection as Kansas Attorney General last year, said during a town hall meeting Saturday that he doubted he'd run for the district attorney office in 2008.

"I think I'll probably get out of elective office and get involved in advocacy on issues and on the law," he told about 80 people.

For about two hours, Kline discussed a wide range of topics, including his plans to crack down on illegal immigrants and his fight with Wichita abortion provider George Tiller.

He said his office this month has stopped offering diversion services to illegal immigrants who are accused of crimes in the county. Under diversion, a person signs a contract to fulfill certain terms and conditions in return for their charges being dismissed.

"Diversion requires a lot of taxpayer-funded services to give somebody a second chance," Kline said.

"And since illegals are violators of the law and not paying taxes, we have decided not to bring diversion to those who are accused of crimes who have an illegal status."

He said he would review the policy in 60 days.

On his office staff, Kline said four prosecutors are either already special assistant U.S. attorneys, certified to try cases in federal court, or are becoming certified.

He said this will allow his office

to file some cases in federal court, where the punishment may be harsher.

He briefly discussed the eight staff members he fired when he joined the office, saying he interviewed the seven assistant district attorneys and his transition team interviewed the chief investigator.

When an audience member said the investigator had not been interviewed before being fired, Kline declined to comment further.

"As you know, those individuals have sued me personally," he said. "They have sued me in my official capacity.

"I can't get into some of this. Fine question, but they're asking for those answers in a court of law."

As part of their lawsuit against Kline, the eight filed documents with the court earlier this month saying a county review panel had agreed their firings were improper.

Kline also spent the final 25 minutes of the meeting talking about his attempt to get medical records from abortion clinics, which resulted in him filing 30 criminal charges against Tiller in December.

A judge later dismissed the charges over a jurisdictional issue.

### Auction

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