

Letter of apology not good legally



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• dear abby

DEAR ABBY: This letter concerns your advice to the mother of the young woman "Allie," who had been drinking and got into a car accident that killed the other driver. The mother said her daughter felt terrible about it and asked if her daughter should send a sympathy card to the grieving family. You told her that instead of a sympathy card, an abject letter of apology was more appropriate.

My daughter was released from jail last Valentine's Day after serving seven months of a one-year sentence. She was at fault for the death of a man because she tried to pass a car and ended up in a head-on collision. My daughter was speeding, sober and nearly died herself. She, too, was very sorry and insisted on sending the family a letter - against her attorney's advice.

A letter will not make the

deceased's survivors feel better. They will use it against her in court. The courts will punish Allie. That girl doesn't need a lynch mob; she needs to leave it alone.

Today my daughter wishes she hadn't written the letter. Accidents happen, and they change lives forever! — LET GO AND LET GOD

Dear L.G.: I have a stack of letters echoing your sentiments on this subject. When I wrote my answer, I did not take into consideration that there could be legal ramifications. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: While I have no sympathy for drunk drivers, that girl should not contact the other family at this time. Although the mother didn't say so in her letter, her daughter,

"Allie," will likely be charged with some form of homicide. Any letter she writes might be seen as an admission of guilt by the prosecuting attorney. Allie should apologize only when any trial is over. — NANCY IN GAYLORD, MICH.

DEAR NANCY: Thank you for pointing that out to me and my readers.

DEAR ABBY: As a risk manager, I can tell you that putting an apology in writing would be detrimental to the girl in the lawsuit that is sure to be filed soon. Everything she says can and will be used against her.

I suggest that "Allie" get counseling for her feelings, and also enroll herself in an alcohol abuse program.

Doing it before it is court-ordered will benefit her, and it will also confirm the guilt she feels. — LUCI IN HUNTINGTON BEACH, CALIF.

DEAR LUCI: Counseling is an excellent idea, as soon as the girl is up to it.

DEAR ABBY: I can tell you from experience that the family of that victim will not feel better after receiving a letter of apology. It will only hurt the survivors by highlighting that the young woman survived, but their child, wife, sibling, etc. did not. Whatever peace they may have attained so far (if any) will be shattered and their emotions inflamed.

Speaking as a family member of a victim, I assume the other driver is

sorry. I am not interested in letting that person unburden him or herself to me or having any personal contact with them. It is almost insulting that the person would think a written note would make me feel better. (It goes without saying that cards should not be sent to the grief-stricken family - notes only.) Your advice should have been that any kind of communication at this time would be inappropriate without knowing more of the facts. — STILL GRIEVING IN HOUSTON

DEAR STILL GRIEVING: Please accept my sympathy for the tragic loss of your family member. And thank you for discussing your feelings on this painful subject. I retract my answer to that question.

TUESDAY EVENING											E= Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone				AUG. 2, 2005					
E	S	6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30									
36	47	A&E	Cold Case Files A murder goes awry.	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Family Forensics (N)	Inked	Inked	Inked	Cold Case Files A murder goes awry.										
4	6	ABC	My Wife and Kids	Rodney	CMA Music Festival: Country Music's Biggest Party (N)			News	(:35) Nightline	(:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N)										
26	54	ANPL	Wolf Within	The Most Extreme "Super Dogs" Dog breeds.	Animal Cops Detroit Pet abandonment.			Wolf Within		The Most Extreme "Super Dogs" Dog breeds.										
63	67	BRAVO	Situation: Comedy	Situation: Comedy (N)	Queer Eye for the Straight Guy (N)			Blow Out "Reunion" (N)		Bobby Brown	Bobby Brown									
7	11	CBS	NCIS "An Eye for an Eye"	Big Brother 6 (N)	Rock Star: INXS (N)			News	(:35) Late Show With David Letterman (N)	Late Late Show										
55	42	DISC	MythBusters The stinky car; raccoon in a drain.	Monster Garage "RX7/Sand Rail"	American Chopper "David Mann Bike 2"			Deadliest Catch "Beat the Clock"		Dirty Jobs San Francisco sewer inspector.										
33	56	DISN	Kim Possible	Braceface	Lizzie McGuire	Sister, Sister	That's So Raven	That's So Raven	★ "Inspector Gadget" (1999, Adventure) Matthew Broderick, Rupert Everett. PG											
49	66	EITV	Barbi Twins: THS Series of Poker	Traci Lords: THS Series of Poker	Big Hair	E! News	Palms	Howard S.	Saturday Night Live											
23	29	ESPN2	WNBA Basketball: Sting at Mystics		Boxing: Marcos Ramirez vs. Priest Tiger Smalls			SportsCenter (Live)	Baseball	NFL Live										
32	58	FAM	★ ★ "Dirty Dancing" (1987) Jennifer Grey.	★ ★ "Six Pack" (1982, Comedy) Kenny Rogers.	★ ★ "Paradise Road" (1997) Glenn Close.			The 700 Club	Videos	Videos										
53	45	FOOD	Emeril Live Recipes from Louisiana.	Roker on the Road	Recipe for Success	\$40-a-Day "Salem"	\$40-a-Day "Santa Fe"	Iron Chef "Squid" Squid battle.		Emeril Live Pork and clams.										
13	7	FOX	Trading Spouses: Meet Your New Mommy	House "Heavy"	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith			Blind Date (N)	Blind Date (N)	Maury										
40	41	FX	King of Hill	Fear Factor	King of Hill	★ ★ "The Transporter" (2002) Jason Statham.														
30	27	FXSP	Sports List	Rockies	Rockies Pregame	MLB Baseball Colorado Rockies at San Francisco Giants. (Live)														
-	60	HALL	Walker, Texas Ranger	"Perry Mason: The Case of the Lethal Lesson"	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H										
5	-	HBO	(:15) ★ ★ "Sister Act" (1992, Comedy) Whoopi Goldberg, Maggie Smith.	★ ★ "Six Pack" (1982, Comedy) Kenny Rogers.	★ ★ "Paradise Road" (1997) Glenn Close.	★ ★ "Paparazzi" (2004, Suspense) Cole Hauser. PG-13	★ ★ "Spartan"													
62	44	HGTV	Designed	Get Color	Decorating Mission	Designers' Designers'	Design House	Designed	Get Color											
58	48	HIST	Wild West Tech The Hotchkiss cannon.	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	(:05) Friends	(:35) Friends	(:05) Friends	(:35) Friends	(:05) ★ ★ "Kate & Leopold" (2001)										
25	38	IND	Friends	Friends	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends										
18	63	LIFE	(:5:00) "Return to Me"	"This Matter of Marriage" (1998) Michael Nouri.	G. Palace	Golden	The Nanny	The Nanny												
54	74	MTV	Laguna	Diary	VMA Nominee Videos	Direct Effect	70s House	Real World	Real World											
3	9	NBC	News	Ent. Tonight	Meet Mister Mom (Series Premiere) (N)	I Want to Be a Hilton (N)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Blood"	News	(:35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (N)	Late Night										
8	8	NBC	Meet Mister Mom (Series Premiere) (N)	I Want to Be a Hilton (N)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Blood"	News	(:35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (N)	Late Night												
34	55	NICK	Neutron	School	Fresh Pr.	Hi-Jinks	Fresh Pr.	Fresh Pr.	Fresh Pr.	Fresh Pr.										
2	2	PBS	Nova "Deep Sea Invasion" (N)	Wide Angle Young journalists in Iran. (N)	Capitalizing on Rural America	BBC World News	That's My Boy	Charlie Rose (N)												
38	71	SCIFI	(:5:00) "Star Trek Generations" (N)	★ ★ ★ "Star Trek: First Contact" (1996) Patrick Stewart.				The Outer Limits												
61	72	SPK	Maximum Exposure	Wildest Police Videos	CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: Crime Scn	★ ★ "Super Troopers"													
39	43	TLC	While You Were Out	Clean Sweep "Handbag Hell"	In a Fix "Fine Art Vision"	Rides Remaking a 1969 Dodge Charger.	Overhaul'n "Bel Air BBQ" (N)													
28	40	TNT	Law & Order (DVS)	Law & Order (DVS)	Law & Order "Phobia"	The Closer "Batter Up"	Charmed													
51	49	TRAV	Taste	Taste	Made	Made	Made	Made												
21	59	TVLND	Munsters	Munsters	Griffith	Sanford	GoodTime	All-Family	3's Co.	3's Co.	Cheers	Sanford								
60	79	UNIV	Apuesta por un Amor	La Madrastra	Casos de la Vida Real	Impacto	Noticiero	La Hora Derbez												
20	37	USA	Law & Order: SVU	★ ★ "Blow" (2001) Johnny Depp, Penelope Cruz.	Gilmore Girls "Women of Questionable Morals"	Gilmore Girls "Come Home" (N)	News	SVU	Friends	Will & Grace										
12	3	WB	Friends	Everybody-Raymond	Smallville "Transference"	Everwood "The Reflex"	News	SVU	Friends	Will & Grace										
99	39	WGN	America's Funniest Home Videos	Funnest Home Videos	Funnest Home Videos	WGN News at Nine	Becker	Becker	Home Delivery											

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E	S	6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30									
36	47	A&E	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Inked	Inked	Criss Angel Mindfreak	Criss Angel Mindfreak	Crossing Jordan "It Happened One Night"	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter									
4	6	ABC	Brat Camp	Brat Camp	Brat Camp (N)			News	(:35) Nightline	(:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N)										
26	54	ANPL	Buggin' With Ruud "Island of Giant Bugs"	Corwin's Quest The salt-water crocodile.	Animal Cops Detroit Puppies with heatstroke.			Buggin' With Ruud "Island of Giant Bugs"		Corwin's Quest The salt-water crocodile.										
63	67	BRAVO	Blow Out "Reunion"	Kathy Griffin Is... Not Nicole Kidman (N)	Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List			Kathy Griffin Is... Not Nicole Kidman (N)		Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List										
7	11	CBS	The Cut "I'm a Grown-Ass Man and I Quit" (N)	Rock Star: The King of Queens	CSI: NY "Blood, Sweat and Tears" (N)			News	(:35) Late Show With David Letterman (N)	Late Late Show										
55	42	DISC	MythBusters "Penny Drop"	Monster Garage "Dodge/44 Magnum"	American Chopper Golfer Davis Love III.			One Step Beyond (N)	One Step Beyond (N)	MythBusters "Killer Tissue Box" (N)										
33	56	DISN	Kim Possible	Braceface	Lizzie McGuire	Sister, Sister	That's So Raven	That's So Raven	★ ★ "102 Dalmatians" (2000, Adventure) Glenn Close, Joan Gruffudd. G											
49	66	EITV	Snoop Dogg: True Story	Eminem: The E! THS	Palms	Howard S.	Palms	Howard S.	Palms	Palms										
22	28	ESPN	(:5:00) MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	Baseball Tonight	SportsCenter (Live)	Baseball	NFL Live													
23	29	ESPN2	All Access	Streetball	Streetball	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced. (Subject to Blackout) (Live)														
32	58	FAM	★ ★ "Cruel Intentions" (1999, Drama)	★ ★ "Mother, Jugs & Speed" (1976)	★ ★ "The Chase"			Venus	Who?	The 700 Club	Videos									
35	-	FMC	★ ★ "Tony Rome" (1967) Frank Sinatra.	★ ★ "Mother, Jugs & Speed" (1976)	★ ★ "The Chase"			Venus	Who?	The 700 Club	Videos									
53	45	FOOD	Emeril Live Caribbean spices.	BBQ With Bobby Flay	BBQ With Bobby Flay	Good Eats (N)	Good Eats (N)	Iron Chef America "Morimoto vs. Sanchez"		Emeril Live Emeril steams up dinner.										
13	7	FOX	So You Think You Can Dance (N)	The Inside "Aidan" (N)	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith	Blind Date (N)	Blind Date (N)	Maury												
40	41	FX	Fear Factor	King of Hill	King of Hill	★ ★ "Black Hawk Down" (2001, Drama) Josh Hartnett, Ewan McGregor.														
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34	55	NICK	Phantom	Unfabulous	Full House	Full House	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne										
2	2	PBS	Roadshow FYI	Roadshow FYI	American Masters "Good Legacy of Sun Records" (N)	Rockin' Tonight: The	BBC World News	As Time Goes By	Charlie Rose (N)											
38	71	SCIFI	Ghost Hunters (N)	Master Blasters (N)	Tripping	Tripping	Ghost Hunters	Master Blasters												
61	72	SPK	Maximum Exposure	Wildest Police Videos	CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: Crime Scn	★ ★ "Point Break"													
39	43	TLC	While You Were Out	Clean Sweep "Going, Going, Gone!" (N)	In a Fix "Don't Go Chasing Waterfalls"	While You Were Out (N)	Miami Ink													