

Officer's wife thinks the army has priority



abigail van buren

• dear abby

Dale's service. She has happily bragged that she's an officer's wife, about the pay, the retirement that will come their way, and the travel deals they have enjoyed staying at Army properties all over the country. Until now, she has supported the action in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Now, however, she has kicked Dale out of the house because she believes he has chosen the Army over their family. She says he won't

be allowed to call or e-mail her or their two kids while he's on active duty.

Andrea refuses any suggestion of support services through the Army because she doesn't think the session will be kept confidential. Although I want to support her, I believe she's denying Dale the support he deserves. It infuriates me that she has been in favor of the military action as long as it involved other people's families and not her own.

Andrea and Dale have been married 20 years. She has never lived alone, nor does she have the means to support herself. She has been seeing a therapist for the past few months for depression, but her next

session isn't for a few weeks. How can I help? What can anyone else do to help?—CONCERNED SISTER

DEAR SISTER: Please put aside your anger and give your sister all the emotional support you can, because she's extremely needy right now. She has been hit with cold reality. Her behavior is irrational because she is frightened. Her husband is headed for a war zone from which he might not return. With her husband gone, she may also have to find a job to supplement his salary. She should be talking to her physician and clergyman as well as her therapist. (She may need medication as well as therapy to see her through.) I hope your sister comes to her

senses before it's too late, or she may spend the rest of her life regretting her immaturity and self-centeredness. Her attempts to punish her husband are counterproductive and could sabotage his peace of mind and safety. This is not a matter of choice. Her husband is fulfilling an obligation.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are in our late 20s, and we agreed to be the godparents of our niece when she was born. My husband's brother and the mother of our niece are not married. The baby now lives with her maternal grandparents because her parents are young and irresponsible. Both of them are on drugs, and at least one of them has charges

pending. Are we still responsible as godparents now that the parents no longer have custody? There is nothing in writing, and this is getting to be a very sticky situation. The little girl is in good hands now. Please advise us. — UNSURE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR UNSURE: Do you want to serve as the child's godparents? If the answer is yes, pick up the phone and inform the grandparents that you were asked to be. If the parents of the baby are as irresponsible as you say, it may be news to them. If the grandparents are agreeable, I'm sure you can work it out between you.

TUESDAY EVENING AUG. 30, 2005. Table with columns for time slots (6 pm to 10:30) and rows for various TV channels (A&E, ABC, ANPL, BRAVO, CBS, DISC, DISN, E!TV, ESPN, ESPN2, FAM, FMC, FOOD, FOX, FX, FXSP, HALL, HBO, HGTV, HIST, IND, LIFE, MTV, NBC, NICK, PBS, SCIFI, SPK, TLC, TNT, TRAV, TVLND, UNIV, USA, WB, WGN) listing their respective programs.

WEDNESDAY EVENING AUG. 31, 2005. Table with columns for time slots (6 pm to 10:30) and rows for various TV channels (A&E, ABC, ANPL, BRAVO, CBS, DISC, DISN, E!TV, ESPN, ESPN2, FAM, FMC, FOOD, FOX, FX, FXSP, HALL, HBO, HGTV, HIST, IND, LIFE, MTV, NBC, NICK, PBS, SCIFI, SPK, TLC, TNT, TRAV, TVLND, UNIV, USA, WB, WGN) listing their respective programs.

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THURSDAY EVENING SEP. 1, 2005. Table with columns for time slots (6 pm to 10:30) and rows for various TV channels (A&E, ABC, ANPL, BRAVO, CBS, DISC, DISN, E!TV, ESPN, ESPN2, FAM, FMC, FOOD, FOX, FX, FXSP, HALL, HBO, HGTV, HIST, IND, LIFE, MTV, NBC, NICK, PBS, SCIFI, SPK, TLC, TNT, TRAV, TVLND, UNIV, USA, WB, WGN) listing their respective programs.

FRIDAY EVENING SEP. 2, 2005. Table with columns for time slots (6 pm to 10:30) and rows for various TV channels (A&E, ABC, ANPL, BRAVO, CBS, DISC, DISN, E!TV, ESPN, ESPN2, FAM, FMC, FOOD, FOX, FX, FXSP, HALL, HBO, HGTV, HIST, IND, LIFE, MTV, NBC, NICK, PBS, SCIFI, SPK, TLC, TNT, TRAV, TVLND, UNIV, USA, WB, WGN) listing their respective programs.