

DEAR ABBY

Write to Dear Abby online at [dearabby.com](http://dearabby.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



**Dear Abby:** A friend of 35 years recently accused me of exposing her and her mother to COVID. She told me she thinks I did it on purpose because I thought so little of them. This is not true!

I had been home for eight days and saw her on a Friday. The following Wednesday I felt sick, so I got tested. When my test the next Monday came back positive, I told her immediately. Since then she has blocked me and won't talk to me to figure out what happened. I don't even know if they got sick.

We have been good friends and helped each other often. I have done a lot for her, but she still refuses to talk to me. What should I do?

—Blocked by COVID in California

**Dear Blocked:** When people are frightened, they sometimes act emotionally instead of rationally. A problem with COVID is that people can be infected, without symptoms, and spread the virus without becoming sick (yet) themselves. This is why mask-wearing and social-distancing are so important. From your description, this may be what happened in your case.

Give your friend time to cool off and continue trying to reach out to her. Then hope that in light of your long friendship, she'll calm down and you can reconnect.

**Dear Abby:** My ex and I were together 17 years. He was a cheater, a liar, and any other way a horrible husband can be described. I divorced him six years ago.

My problem is a few of our

kids think he's a wonderful guy. The older one (25) lived with him until a few months ago. I don't know how to make her understand how horrible he is. I think if she stepped back for a while, she would see it, but she (and several of his other kids) have been completely brainwashed.

She's very quick to ask a question, but when I respond in a way she feels is negative about her dad, she suddenly has to hang up or needs to do something. I'm lost trying to make her see how their part of the family looks like a cult to everyone else in the family.

—Knows the Truth in Ohio

**Dear Knows:** Trying to reason with your daughter is a waste of time. Trying to "deprogram" your children from the "cult" of loving their father isn't working, so quit trying. By persisting, you will only drive a wedge between you. As you stated, once they have stepped back, they may begin to see the light without help from you. Let it happen on its own.

**Dear Abby:** I've never seen you answer a question like mine. I have a \$20 bill that was torn. At some point, the two halves became separated in my pocket, and I lost one of them. Is there any way I could get value for the half that I still have?

—Poor in New Jersey

**Dear Poor:** I'm sorry, but the answer is probably no. If you had three-quarters of the bill, you could take it to a bank and exchange it for a whole bill. But because you have only half, you are out of luck. Sorry!

YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Madalyn Aslan*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

★★★★★ DYNAMIC | ★★★★★ POSITIVE | ★★★ AVERAGE | ★★ SO-SO | ★ DIFFICULT

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2021:** Passionate, brave and steely, when you get into something, so does all your heart. This year, you succeed at a challenging position. Money comes fast and furious, so plug any leaks that might spring up on the spending side. Plan a family vacation that offers something for everyone. If single, believe in love at first sight. If attached, remember what attracted you to each other. SAGITTARIUS makes you think.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**  
★★★ Speak clearly and more directly than usual. Your no-nonsense mode of expression can seem bold, but sometimes you just want to wake people up. Do it with affection, and people will know you mean well. Tonight: Invite a neighbor for tea.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**  
★★★ A luxury item you thought you could never afford will suddenly be within reach. You deserve a treat now more than ever. A family dispute might not be as serious as it seems. Talk things through. Tonight: Watch a televised concert.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
★★★★ Find ways to connect with new people today. Network with a group, or sign up for a golf, hiking or tennis league so you can grow your tribe. Your personal appeal is at a high now. Tonight: Accept an offer.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
★★★★ Seek out solitude and filter out the noise. Listen intently, and you can get a clear signal from your intuition. If you're stumped at the prospect of making a decision, trust your gut. Tonight: A friend pours their heart out.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
★★★ Use your natural leadership abilities to inspire others. Team members who are stuck or stalled appreciate your pep talks. A donation that you made has been spent in a way that warms your heart. Tonight: Try out a healthy recipe.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
★★★★ Don't shun the spotlight today. It's about time that you take credit for your contributions, even though you usually prefer to work quietly behind the scenes. A new friendship could develop now. Be open to it. Tonight: Buy yourself flowers.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
★★★ Re-read and revise a piece of writing that you are stuck on. Let a friend who can provide helpful suggestions look at it. It may never be published, but you want something that represents your voice. Tonight: Connect with out-of-state friends.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
★★★ Your insight into a friend's problems will be a lifesaver. You know the right things to say at the appropriate moments. A business proposition will intrigue you. Research details and consult a financial adviser. Tonight: Create your own video.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
★★★★ Center today's plans around someone you love and who you have missed being around. Get lost in a deep conversation about the recent past. Promise yourselves that you will stay in touch on a regular basis. Tonight: Write a note to yourself.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
★★★★ Someone could ask for practical advice on how to problem-solve. Be firm and truthful, yet sensitive and caring, and you will have a positive impact. Pace yourself and take a break whenever needed. Tonight: Take care of someone's needs.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
★★★ Be playful even if you're frustrated and feeling cranky. Your sense of humor will diffuse a tense situation. Don't sweat the small stuff. Life is too short to let little annoyances upset your day. Tonight: Play a game with friends.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
★★★ Your home needs your personal, loving touch. Make a list of repairs that you can begin to implement. You are due for a call with parents or in-laws. Share your news but continue to maintain boundaries. Tonight: Exciting dinner date.

Parking

Continued from A1

Issues intensify during festival season, Misley said. During the height of the tourism season, the city has lots of people camping in the rights of way. Homes have had RVs camping in front, sometimes setting up shop for days at a time, he said.

There are several campgrounds for RVs in and around the city, but they are often at capacity during festivals, Misley said.

"It's usually a capacity issue more than people not interested in paying (for campgrounds)," Misley said.

The permit system would allow property owners to apply for a permit that would let someone park and use an RV in front of their home for up to 72 hours. A property owner



Bulletin file

Traffic moves along Cascade Avenue in Sisters.

could get a permit up to four times a year.

The idea is to help property owners and their visitors attend events and festivals during times of year when most of the camping in the area is booked up, Misley said.

"It's a matter of keeping our rights of way clear and safe," Misley said. "But I think the RV permitting program is an example of us saying, 'How do we support our residents who don't have a driveway, or our festival promoters who are suc-

cessful at bringing thousands of people to town?"

The permit system is being timed with an increase of the city is getting in law enforcement resources, Misley said.

Historically, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office deputies have dedicated 120 hours a month to patrolling within the Sisters city limits, said Deschutes County Sgt. Jayson Janes. A new contract now provides one lieutenant and three deputies who are dedicated to the city.

Last summer, the sheriff's office received eight parking complaints, Janes said in an email.

Misley said the city will review whether the new code is effective in the next six to 12 months.

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Lawyer

Continued from A1

The committee's 27-page opinion states that Ard's conduct caused numerous people to lose faith in the court system, including Ard's own client, former Sisters High School girls soccer coach Niklas Goertzen.

"(Ard) burdened the court by requiring it to expend its limited time and resources on his redundant motions and unnecessary hearings, far in excess of what was warranted by the legal issues," the committee's opinion read. "(Ard) has damaged the reputation of the profession with his bad faith and harmful use of the legal system."

Ard did not return phone messages or an email sent to his address listed with the bar.

The Goertzen saga dates to 2012, when the Sisters School District declined to renew his coaching contract. In a subsequent lawsuit, Goertzen contended a cabal of parents unfairly conspired to oust him and damage his reputation, despite his self-proclaimed success with the team.

The suit was dismissed by

Deschutes County Circuit Court Judge Beth Bagley. Goertzen appealed, unsuccessfully.

Then, in 2013, Ard got involved.

His first action as Goertzen's lawyer was to file a new lawsuit on largely the same grounds as the dismissed one, the disciplinary committee opinion states.

The second lawsuit was dismissed, and Goertzen was ordered to pay \$24,000 in attorney fees to the soccer parents. He later testified Ard did not notify him this was a possible outcome.

Ard went on to file numerous motions alleging the parents lied and falsely asserted he had evidence to back his claims. He called on the Deschutes County district attorney to investigate the parents for criminal conduct and accused Bagley and other judges of bias.

Against Bagley, he filed a \$1.25 million federal lawsuit, which was dismissed, and an ethics complaint with the bar, which was also thrown out.

In one noteworthy episode, spelled out in detail in the disciplinary committee opinion,

he accused Bagley of bias for concealing an alleged friendship with one of the soccer parents, Merry Ann Moore.

To justify his allegation he submitted screenshots of the judge's LinkedIn page, which had a sidebar that showed that some number of people who had viewed Moore's. The disciplinary committee's opinion notes this could be the result of either Ard or Goertzen viewing the two pages, thus creating the "evidence" themselves.

"But regardless of who might have viewed the two unconnected pages, the leap from that bit of information to proof that the judge and Moore were friends ... was, on its face, beyond logical extrapolation," the opinion reads.

The parents ensnared in Ard's legal filings became disillusioned with the courts. Attorney Carl Rodrigues, who testified in a deposition, spoke to their frustrations.

"They keep asking me, when does this end?" Rodrigues said. "We keep winning, and he keeps filing."

Fighting Ard's frivolous claims cost the Sisters soccer parents at least \$120,000 in at-

torney fees, an amount they've only partially recovered, according to the opinion.

Goertzen himself revealed a level of frustration and anguish with the process when he was deposed.

"I don't freaking understand how we got to this point, and why somebody didn't step in and say, what's going on here," he said. "I was relying completely, 100% on my attorney."

Ard now has one final possible appeal: to the state Supreme Court.

If he accepts the recommended penalty, he would have to go through a more formal reinstatement process, because his suspension is longer than six months, according to bar spokeswoman Kateri Walsh.

He would have to demonstrate to the bar's board of governors he has the "character and fitness" to practice law.

Last year, the disciplinary council recommended suspensions 13 times, according to the council's latest annual report.

Three lawyers were disbarred during that same period.

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THE IMPACT OF GENEROUS HEARTS

Helping us meet the \$1 million Tykeson Family Foundation Challenge

is Todd Taylor and his family! They dropped by for a hard hat tour of the construction of our new Hospice House and left messages between the wall studs of the Activity Room they sponsored with their campaign gift.

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