

Prenuptials May Avoid Future Problems

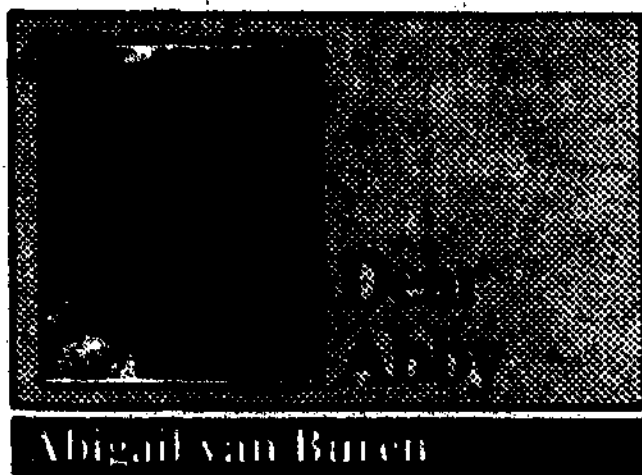
DEAR ABBY: After reading about the woman who was upset because her fiancé wanted a prenuptial agreement, I had to write.

She should be happy about it — unless she plans to "take him to the cleaners" someday.

How I wish I had had a prenuptial agreement! I am presently in the final stages of a very messy divorce. My house, which was in my name alone for four years prior to our marriage, is now his by law!

The lawyer who prepared a "quit-claim" deed for me in 1984 incorrectly put both our names on it. This was supposed to be a "quit-claim" deed in the event that if I died first, my husband could continue to live in my house as long as he wanted to, then it would go to my daughter. Not so! Now I have to pay my husband half the appraised value of my home in our divorce settlement. It was paid for by my money that I inherited from my parents before I married him!

How's that for a trusting spouse? He doesn't need the money; he has a good retirement plus Social Security. I still work, and will have to for several more years, just to pay him



Albert Einstein

off. I trusted him 10 years ago, and look where it's gotten me. If you print this, it may help someone out. Use my name if you must; otherwise, sign me ... LEARNED THE HARD WAY

DEAR ABBY: Your name is not necessary, but many men as well as women could benefit from your costly experience, so thanks for writing. For varied viewpoints, read on:

DEAR ABBY: A prenuptial agreement is a vote of no confidence. I come from a family whose parents are divorced. (My father is on his sixth marriage.)

I spend much time trying to figure out what makes a marriage

work. Albert Einstein once said, "You cannot simultaneously prepare for and prevent war." — BEEN THERE (AND BACK)

DEAR ABBY: Prenuptial and postnuptial agreements can be hazardous to your pocketbook!

My mother was married for 24 years to my stepfather. Seven months after they married, under duress, she signed an agreement stating that everything would go to his children.

His children refused to give up her part of the estate, thinking that the agreement would hold. It didn't.

After lawyers' fees and court costs, everyone ended up losing. Worst of all were the bitterness and stress everyone involved experienced. — SANDRA GILLESPIE, GEORGIA

DEAR ABBY: This is for "Apprehensive" about signing a prenuptial agreement:

Follow Abby's advice about getting your own lawyer. Then, if you decide to go ahead with the marriage, be prepared for a life of yours and mine — not ours.

You will then have a business arrangement, not a marriage. And you

will never be an equal partner.

It is not a good idea; too much caution and lack of trust will make the partner with less feel undervalued. — LIVING WITH IT

DEAR ABBY: The best advice I ever received was a suggestion for a prenuptial agreement. The suggestion was rejected for the reasons cited by "Apprehensive." The biggest mistake of my life was getting married without it.

My recommendation: Insist on it. After all, she has rights and interests to be protected, too. If they strike an equitable agreement, they probably won't need it. If they can't reach an agreement, they'd better not get married. — WALTER A. FIDDER JR., LEBANON, PA.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, March 23, the 82nd day of 1994. There are 283 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 23, 1775, in a speech to the Virginia Provincial Convention, Patrick Henry made his famous plea for American independence from Britain, saying, "Give me liberty, or give me death!"

On this date:

■ In A.D. 752, Pope Stephen II was elected to succeed Pope Zacharias; however, Stephen died only two days later.

■ In 1743, George Frideric Handel's oratorio "Messiah" had its London premiere.

■ In 1792, Joseph Haydn's Symphony No. 94 in G Major, also known as the "Surprise Symphony" because of its startling crashing chord in the second movement, was performed publicly for the first time, in London.

■ In 1806, explorers Lewis and Clark, having reached the Pacific coast, began their journey back East.

■ In 1919, Benito Mussolini founded his Fascist political movement in

Milan, Italy.

■ In 1933, the German Reichstag adopted the Enabling Act, which effectively granted Adolf Hitler dictatorial legislative powers.

■ In 1942, the U.S. government began moving Japanese-Americans from their West Coast homes to detention centers.

■ In 1956, Pakistan became an independent republic within the British Commonwealth.

■ In 1965, America's first two-person space flight began as "Gemini Three" blasted off from Cape Kennedy with astronauts Virgil I. Grissom and John W. Young aboard.

■ In 1983, Dr. Barney Clark, recipient of a permanent artificial heart, died at the University of Utah Medical Center after 112 days with the device.

Ten years ago: The Labor Department reported consumer prices rose four-tenths of 1 percent in February 1984, compared to a rise of six-tenths of 1 percent the previous month.

Five years ago: Fawn Hall, former secretary to one-time National Security Council aide Oliver North, completed two days of testimony at North's Iran-Contra trial. Sometimes weeping, Hall praised North

as a tireless and selfless man, and said their shredding of documents was "no big deal."

One year ago: In his first formal news conference since taking office, President Clinton suggested restricting the duty assignment of homosexuals in the military as a way of allowing openly gay personnel; however, the idea was quickly abandoned. Scientists announced they had found the renegade gene that

causes Huntington's disease.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Akira Kurosawa is 84. Comedian Marty Allen is 72. Actress Amanda Plummer is 37.

Thought for Today: "I speak the truth, not so much as I would, but as much as I dare; and I dare a little more, as I grow older." — Catherine Drinker Bowen, American author (1897-1973).

The Associated Press

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SHORT TAKES

Southern Elegance

The Savannah Symphony Women's Guild will hold its spring fashion show Thursday at the DeSoto Hilton Hotel. The show, titled "Southern Elegance — Savannah Style," is the group's third annual spring fashion show. Proceeds benefit the Savannah Symphony Orchestra. Tickets are \$30; the doors open at 11:30 a.m. for cocktails. Lunch is at noon and the show starts at 1 p.m.

The fashions for the show will be provided by J.B. White.

The \$30 ticket includes lunch with a complimentary glass of wine, the show, and a chance at several door prizes. These door prizes include a \$500 J.B. White shopping spree, two season tickets to the Savannah Pops,

and two roundtrip tickets on Cayman Airways to Grand Cayman.

For reservations, call 598-0624. Tables will be assigned in the order that payment is received. Checks should be made payable to the Savannah Symphony Women's Guild. Seating is limited to 300.

Parties A La Carte

Parties A La Carte, one of the Savannah Symphony Women's Guild major fund-raisers, features parties through May hosted by guild members and friends of the symphony. Parties are underwritten by host couples with guest reservations all going to the SSWG. Parties for the event have the theme "Affairs To Remember." For more information and reservations, call 233-0783.

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SAVANNAH SHORTS

Georgia Music Teachers Association will sponsor a Pedagogy Workshop from 10 a.m. to noon Thursday at Armstrong State College, Fine Arts Building, Band Room. For details, call 927-9395.

The West Broad YMCA will present its 1994 annual meeting at 11 a.m. today at the West Broad YMCA, 110 May St.

A March mini-event entitled Smart Shopper will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at the Savannah Commons Retirement Community, 1 Peachtree Drive. For details, call 927-0500.

CPR Classes (Course C) will be offered at 6 p.m. today at Memorial Medical Center. For details, call 355-0233.

Parents Without Partners will have a financial planner at 7 p.m. today and a meeting at 8 p.m. at Southside Christian Singles Church, 8011 Waters Avenue. Bring newspaper for Humane society.

The Old Fort Reunion Committee will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday at 602 East Broad St.

The Savannah Lil' Rascal Shag Club will hold its social at 7 p.m. today at Rascals, 800 East Derenne Ave. For details, call 352-1095.

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