

Alfred University's David Kaplan Tapped to Advise Parents About Sex and Marriage

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Alfred, NY -- If you write to the "Sex and Marriage" column in Parents magazine, you may find yourself getting advice from an Alfred University professor. Dr. David M. Kaplan, director of the Alfred University Graduate Counseling Program and associate professor of education, became a consultant to the advice column in his capacity as president of the International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors. Kaplan's first appearance as a consultant came in response to the following question: "My husband's father died four years ago, and now his mom has a boyfriend I can't stand. My father-in-law was lots of fun, but this guy is boring and humorless. How can I convince Mom to leave him home when she visits?" Here is the answer in which Kaplan is quoted: "You wouldn't want her to give up having her own relationships, would you? Yet by asking her to shun her boyfriend, you'll make her feel caught in the middle, says David M. Kaplan, Ph.D., president of the International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors. "She could end up dumping him and relying on you, or she could choose him over her family." "Get to know this man better before judging him too harshly. 'Involve him in family activities,' Kaplan advises, and try to be more open-minded. You may never love the guy. But you don't have to -- you're not the one dating him. Move over to make room, and be grateful that a woman who has lost a husband of many years can still find joy." The "Sex and Marriage" feature carries the byline of Holly Robinson.