

# So You Want To Be A Law Husband

**Robert T. Cyphers**

My wife and I have been married for six years, and for all of those years my wife has been in school -- the first three years in undergraduate school and the last three years in law school. Thus there haven't been any traumatic adjustments in my life by virtue of the fact that she is now in law school. I don't mean to imply that law school has been a breeze for either of us. We've had our share of problems, such as money, babysitters for our two children, etc.

Our major problems have centered around

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"The result is a messy house!"

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delegation of household and parental duties. Upon moving to Williamsburg, I started my own plumbing and heating business. This has meant that I often put in as much as eighteen hours a day. This leaves me precious little time for doing my share of the housework. Between classes and studying, my wife also has very little time for such chores. The result is a messy house! Actually, the day-to-day chores get done because everyone in the family has designated chores. For example, our ten year old son, David, takes out the trash, cleans his room and runs the vacuum cleaner. Our four year old, Jennifer, makes her own bed, helps to fold clothes, and feeds our dog and cat. Things may not always get done, but I've learned to adjust.

One major concern of both myself and my wife is that we don't get to spend as much time with our children as we would like. Nonetheless, I believe our children have received a positive benefit from my wife's attendance in law school. Jennifer is very independent and loves staying with her babysitter where she learned at a very early age how to socialize constructively with

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her peers.

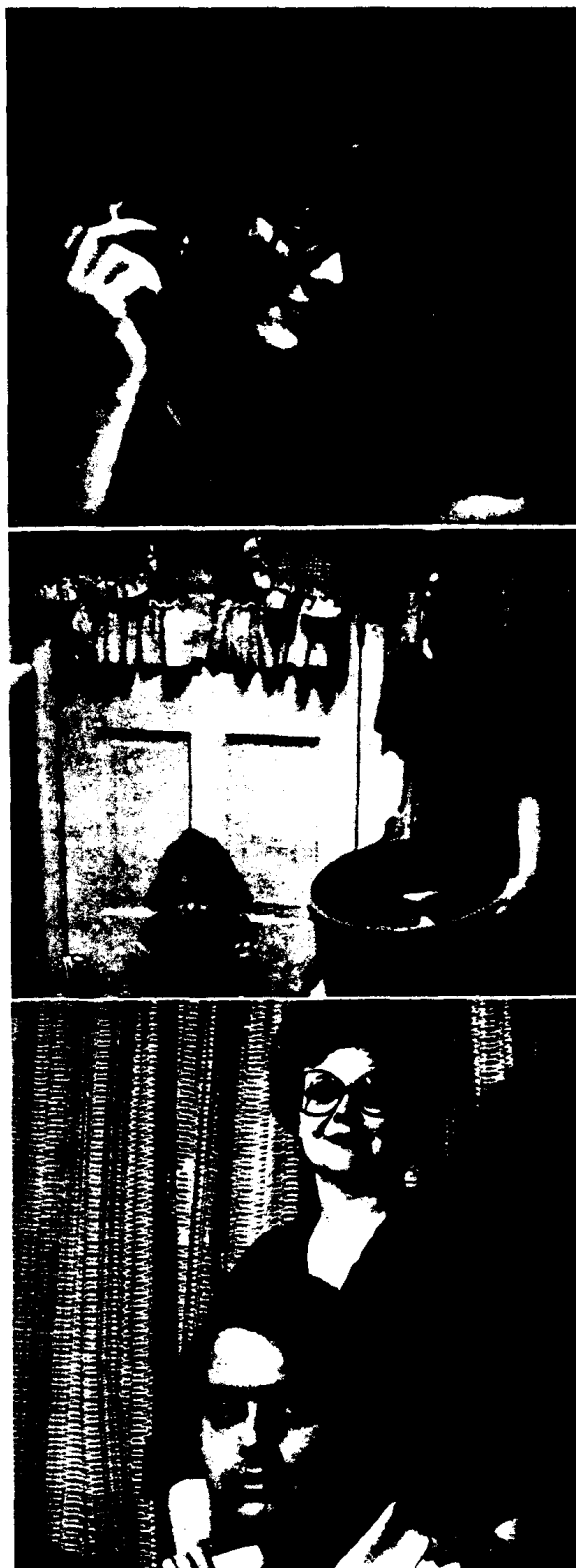
David really has very little time for us. He has soccer practice three times a week, games twice a week, tap dancing and disco dancing lessons, and a paper route. He is also very active in the youth group at church. At this point in his life, having to spend an evening with his family is quite dull.

I must admit there are some bad times around our household. Exam time is the worst. Everything falls apart, including my wife. She hibernates to our bedroom wearing the most ragged robe she owns, props herself up in the bed, surrounds herself with books, cigarettes and Diet Rites, and emerges only to get food and drink. It is during these times I realize just how much my wife ordinarily does in the way of housework. By the end of the exam period, it takes a shovel to clear a path clear through our house. It seems that when she doesn't do her share of the work we all fall apart. Thank goodness, exams are only given twice a year.

As a “law husband” my major gripe is law school parties. This may seem facetious and unimportant and as any good lawyer would point out, “neither law spouses nor law students are required to attend said parties.” This is true, but one attends such gatherings in the hope that conditions will improve. My wife is also a strong influence on my decisions to attend. Thus we generally make our appearance and after an appropriate length of time, we sneak out to our favorite local disco. Having indicted (picked this word up at a law party) law parties as my major complaint, I think it only fair that I explain my reasons. The main reason is that law parties are attended by law students and law students simply don't know how to party. The majority of law students attending these parties are bores. Before attending the first of these parties I had expected to meet a group of interesting, intellectual and diverse individuals. To my surprise, law students tend to talk only about law and law professors. The law can be interesting, even to a layman such as myself, but only when spoken in an intelligible language. Law students speak in code, e.g., torts, vicarious liability, res ipsa, corpus delecti. I often wonder if these law students will be able to communicate with clients when they become lawyers.

I realize this complaint isn't earthshattering, but I appreciate having been given the opportunity to air my grievance.

I have sketched out my life as a “law husband” but I haven't told you the main reason for accepting and even encouraging my wife to go to law school. It's really very simple -- I'm looking forward to an early retirement!



The Cyphers family at home.