

Stepson Acts Out In “Other Home”

Client’s Questions:

“I have a 4 year old step-son. He lives with his mother and step-dad all of the time. Me and his dad get him every other weekend. Whenever he is at our house he behaves pretty well he does the normal 4 year old things but nothing out of the ordinary. When he gets in trouble we tell him why and he gets over it and stops. My stepson’s mother called this morning and said that when we brought him home last night he was a holy terror screaming hitting kicking and biting her and his step dad, wouldn’t eat, wouldn’t go to bed, or take a bath just fought them till about 2 in the morning. She said that this happens all the time there she just hasn’t been telling us. They have had about as much as they can take and we all need some desperate help to turn our wild child back into the nice 4 year old he was 6 months ago. Any suggestions?”

ScottCounseling Response:

Thanks for contacting ScottCounseling.com! I have a lot of experience working with parents and kids going through what Preston and his parents/step-parents are experience now. It can be heartbreaking. Couple of questions for you:

- 1) Can/did the biological parents (stepson’s mom and dad) meet to discuss what is happening? Is this possible?
- 2) Is he mature enough (Many 4 yr. olds are not) to share why he acts out or differently when he’s away from you.
- 3) Is your stepson’s behavior also occurring other places (i.e. daycare, preschool, activities etc.) as it occurs away from you?

The reason why it’s important for your stepson to know that his mom and dad are still communicating, at least about him, is that he sees that they both care about him...together. Can the parents meet and come up with a plan together?

In order to provide you with more help, I need more information from the questions I posed above.

Also, read: “Divorce and Children” at ScottCounseling.com

<http://www.scottcounseling.com/wordpress/how-to-help-your-child-cope-with-divorce/2008/03/06/>

I hope to hear from you soon.

