

Topic: Money and Relationships

Out on Their Own (Mostly)

- In most families, money is a source of stress. Even if you have a good plan, a good budget, and well-paying jobs, an unexpected emergency (health problems, car repair, job loss, a move, or even a vet bill) can throw any family into financial crisis.
- Try to be as open as you can about your plans for retirement, as well as how you have been able to afford rent or mortgage payment, and the expenses of running a household: utilities, repairs, taxes, insurance, cell phone and cable/Internet bills, groceries, and so on.
- Talk to them about credit cards - the uses and abuses.
- Once your child hits high school, if at all possible, encourage them to get some working experience, paid and/or as a volunteer. They need to start building references and a resume for future work, and again, get some experience with money.
- Most banks and credit unions have online banking and smartphone apps. If your child has a smartphone, this will probably be the ideal way for them to monitor their expenditures, and at first, it is a good idea for you to monitor their account balance and their expenditures as well.
- You may have to set-up some rules about online shopping.
- Just as we've encouraged communications about family relationships and expectations, it is also encouraged to discuss expectations for finances as your child gets older.
- Regardless of what career path your young adult thinks they might be interested in, it is important to make sure you both do some research on the institution or business they will be attending to make sure it is LGBTQ friendly.

Relationships

- Are "Sleep-Overs" platonic or otherwise allowed? This is a good time to go over the safe sex talk (again). Yes, it is embarrassing. Yes, they will probably roll their eyes at you, but this is critical information, and they will need this information as they make choices within their relationships.
- Are they allowed to use Tinder or other online dating apps? Once your child turns eighteen, you can still offer them guidance and advice, but you really have no more power to set rules for them (unless they are still living with you). This is tricky decision. It can be difficult for LGBTQ+ teens to date traditionally. But, online dating can be deceitful and creepy. Safety is also important thing to discuss if they are going to use these apps to meet people.
- How much time is your child's significant other allowed to spend at your house, or vice versa? You may want to draw some boundaries about how and then their significant other can visit. Talk about a schedule and the expectations around that schedule.

Suggested Do's and Don'ts

- 1) Do be honest about finances and what will be expected of them in high school and college years.
- 2) Do realize that our society has significantly changed and our young adults may need our help (including insurance or their bedroom) for longer than some previous generations. This does not make them worthless or lazy. It's just different.
- 3) Don't think that now that your child has graduated from high school, they don't need you.
- 4) Do get to know your child's significant other, if possible. Invite them over for dinner. If you are visiting your child at college, see if their significant other wants to come for lunch as well. Whether this is the person they settle down with for the rest of their life or someone they only date for months, you will be glad to be a part of your child's expanding life and relationships.