

Saying No to adult children

Dear Son,

Sorry for not getting back to you sooner. I know you need some money to cover the bills your roommates stuck you with, and to start that new business. Well, several things have happened since we last spoke.

A few weeks back a young man came to our house and "guaranteed" we'd make a lot of money if we invested with him. We'd never heard of the company he was working for but it seemed reputable, and the ambitious salesman reminded Mom of you.

So, after a couple more meetings, we turned our savings over to him and, since he asked, even allowed him to stay in your old room for what we thought would just be a day or two. It turns out that his parents disowned him because his girlfriend is pregnant and they refuse to get married and go to church.

We were helping them pay for some of the tests and treatments for the unborn baby, but all that will have to stop now that your Mom and I are in therapy and facing our own challenges. Seems that Mom and Uncle Jerry have been in a relationship for several years and now she wants to move to Florida and live with him.

At the same time, we're getting our DNA tested and suggest you do the same. Your Mom says she isn't sure if you are actually my son. I guess there's a possibility you might be someone else's. As you might imagine, all this has been pretty overwhelming and, I hate to admit it, but I have turned to alcohol and pills to help. I've tried sobering up but I only feel better after I swallow a couple pills and knock back a few drinks.

Worse yet, I found out today that our new financial guy was not disowned by his parents, and there is no "baby on the way." But he did use our money to buy a new sports car, which he totaled, and is now going to jail for fraud.

Now that you're up to date on everything I want to tell you we didn't really turn our life savings over to a con artist, your Mom never slept with Uncle Jerry, and there's no need for a DNA test to prove you're our son. But we're not sending you any more money, either. We just wanted you to see this decision in the proper perspective and to encourage you to count your blessings instead of your concerns.

Love,

Dad & Mom