

THE HOUSE WITH CHILDREN

Running a covenant where children live
A companion to the Covenant Set — For Adults 18 and Over

THE FIRST RULE

Where there are children in the house, they come before the dynamic — not as a sentiment, but as an operating principle that overrides every other page in this library. The Covenant exists to build a strong household. A household in which a child is frightened, confused, or exposed to what belongs to the parents is not strong, whatever else is working.

WHAT THEY MUST NEVER SEE OR HEAR

No correction takes place where a child may walk in, and no correction takes place while a child is awake in the house unless there is a door, a distance, and certainty. Discipline is not audible. Implements are not visible. Hardware is not on display anywhere a child may be — the encouragement to display within the home ends entirely at the point a child lives there.

This is not prudishness, and it is not shame. It is that a child who witnesses this cannot understand it, will not have the framework to interpret what he or she saw, and may carry the fright of it for years. What is devotion between two adults is simply terrifying to a seven-year-old.

STORAGE

Implements live locked away, not merely out of reach. Children find things; older children look deliberately. Documents, ledgers, hardware, and anything else belonging to the practice go in a locked box or a locked room, and the key is not on the hook by the door. Assume that anything unlocked will eventually be found.

The same applies to devices. A shared tablet, a family computer, an unlocked phone, a synced photo library — these are the commonest route by which children encounter what they should not. Separate accounts, no synced albums, and nothing saved where a child hands a device to a parent to show them something.

IF A CHILD SEES OR HEARS SOMETHING

Do not panic, and do not lie elaborately. Panic teaches a child that something terrible happened; an elaborate lie will be remembered and eventually understood. Keep it brief, calm, and age-appropriate: adults sometimes play games or do things that are private, nobody was hurt, everyone is fine. Then change the subject and do not raise it again.

For an older child or a teenager who has clearly understood more, honesty within limits works better than denial: this is private, it is between us, nobody is being hurt, and it is not something to discuss further. A flat refusal to explain is more reassuring than a story that does not hold.

If a child seems genuinely distressed, that takes priority over every other consideration, including embarrassment. Attend to the child first and review the arrangements afterwards.

TIMING AND THE NIGHTLY ROUTINE

The Routine and a child's bedtime occupy the same hours, and this is the practical difficulty most couples hit first. The answer is usually to move the reckoning rather than to skip it: the ledger may be read and scored at the ordinary hour and served later, after the house is asleep. The account is still settled the same day, which is what the Articles require.

Where nothing can be served safely, Addendum I already provides for it — the ledger is read, scored, and recorded, and the striking waits. A father whose children are awake is not failing his Covenant by not being paddled.

WHAT THEY SHOULD ABSORB

They should never know what this is. They should absolutely see what it produces: two parents who are visibly devoted, a house with clear order, a father who is attentive and does what he says, and a mother whose word carries. That is the inheritance the Protocols speak of, and it is transmitted entirely by what children observe in ordinary daylight — not by anything that happens behind a locked door.

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