

The following case came from The Texas Council on Family Violence Council. The woman is from a small rural town in Texas.

CHRISTINA

Christina*, originally from the Philippines, came to the United States as a mail order bride. She corresponded with Jerry* for about 3 months and then arrangements were made for her to come and meet him. Christina has one child, that she left in the Philippines and Jerry had promised to help her bring that child to the United States however, he never did. He also said that he would help her get her residency but never did that either. When Christina got to the U.S. Jerry met her at the airport. They then went to Las Vegas where they checked into a hotel. Later that day they went to another building and Christina was told to sign a piece of paper. Jerry and another man then said some other things to her that she did not understand and then told her that she was now married to Jerry. Upon returning to the secluded home that they would share Jerry gave her a piece of paper entitled "Standard Regulations" and proceeded to explain to her the rules that she would have to live by (These standard regulations appear following Christina's story). Jerry had children from a previous marriage and she was to also care for the children.

Throughout the course of their marriage the couple lived in a secluded home in a rural area. Christina learned that she must obey the standard regulations and she learned what the consequences would be if she failed to obey them. If she failed to obey his demands she would be hit by Jerry until she could perform her "duties". Eventually, Christina reported, all that it would take was a look from him to make her do something. She also reported that at times no matter what she did he would hit her. Christina said that after she learned how to follow the rules she no longer had to be "disciplined". At some point in their relationship he allowed her to seek employment outside of the home. Every day he would drop her off and give her \$2.00. He would tell her where to be at precisely 5:30 so that he could pick her up. Every bit of her time away from him had to be accounted for. Jerry would not let her make, or accept, a phone call without his permission and him being present. The only letters that she could write were to her family and they had to be in English so that he could read them before they were sent out.

One day while looking for a job she happened to enter a shop that was run by a Filipino woman. They talked for a while and Christina felt secure enough to tell her about the rules that she had to live by. Luckily the woman that she met was a volunteer in a battered women's shelter and she told Christina that she did not have to live like this and that there was somewhere that she could go. When she went to the shelter and Jerry found out that she was not returning, he alerted the INS. After contact with the INS Christina voluntarily left to return to the Philippines. Before she left she did find a Pro Bono attorney to help her obtain a divorce from Jerry.

The following are the "standard regulations" that Christina received:

STANDARD REGULATIONS

Your primary function in life is to serve me...bringing me comfort and pleasure at all times. You are to keep the household neat, clean, orderly. You are to keep yourself clean, healthy, and attractive. You are to function in these capacities with a joyful, pleasant nature at all times. You will follow my directives at all times without question and without complaint.

Your secondary function is to be a model mother. You will give order, affection, good care to the children at all times...but never to the extent that it will conflict with proper attention to me. You will never voice or show contempt for my "orders" as far as the children or anyone else is concerned. You will at all times be supportive and convey to the children and to others that my word is "law", and that the children should follow my directives without question and with the same "joy" as you do.

DAILY

You will arise approximately at 6:00 A.M. After going to the bathroom, brushing your teeth, combing your hair, cleaning your face with alcohol or Seabreeze, you will wake the children. While they are preparing for school you will prepare their breakfast. They will not leave the house without a proper breakfast. You will then prepare their lunch for them to carry with them. You will put on my coffee and awaken me at 7:00 A.M. The children will catch the bus at 7:20 A.M. It is your responsibility to see that they have done all that they are supposed to do each morning and that they are properly attired and have all necessities with them as they leave the house.

Each day there will be absolute order in the house by the time that I arrive.. There will be no dishes in the sink, nothing out of place. You will organize everything in the house and keep it organized. A place for everything and everything in it's place. The tub, toilet, bathroom sink will be scrubbed daily. The dishes will be washed and put away before I arrive. You must be fastidious about scrubbing the dishes, pots and pans before they are put into the dishwasher.

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY

Vacuum the carpet (and any other time that it is needed), dust all furniture (not just the tops, but the sides and bottoms as well), this also includes dusting the tops of books, washing washable surfaces such as refrigerator, washer, dryer, tables. You will vacuum behind and in between the furniture, keep window sill and window free from dirt, keep baseboards clean, keep finger prints and smudges from doors, woodwork walls, cabinets: All cabinets and drawers are to be cleaned and washed on Monday, the stove will be dismantled and cleaned on Wednesday. The porches will be cleaned and scrubbed.

TUESDAY, THURSDAY

These are gardening and taking care of my personal things days. My clothes are to be cleaned and pressed. My shoes are to be cleaned and shined. If the car is at home, it is to be vacuumed, the dashboard cleaned, the windows and windshield cleaned. If not available during the week, this is to be done on Saturday. Any mending that needs to be done such as buttons or tears will be done. On Tuesday change the pillow cases on my bed. Make sure that my robes are washed at least once a week.

SATURDAY

Change the sheets on my bed. Work in the garden with me, if required. Make the bread for the week. (If we are busy on Saturday or out of the city, this is to be done another day). If we are in the city...you and the children will attend church either on Saturday evening or on Sunday morning.

OVERALL

You will clean your face no less than 3 times a day. You will take your vitamins daily and see to it that the children take theirs after breakfast. You will brush your teeth at least twice daily and see to it that the children do likewise. Your hair will be clean and attractive, your body clean and sweet smelling and your clothes neat and clean each day when I get home.

You will prepare a menu each week...have it ready by each Friday evening...for my approval together with a shopping list of all ingredients necessary that you do not have on hand. You are to know at all times what foods are in your larder and where they are. Your shopping list will also include soaps, shampoos, and any cleaning supplies that you will need for the following week. You will study nutrition and follow the guidelines to produce meals that are nutritionally sound as well as good tasting. You will learn to preserve food by canning.

I would prefer that when I am at home that you do not wear slacks...that you do wear skirts, or house coats, or housedresses and NO underwear except during your period. You will at all times be affectionate with me both publicly and privately. You will immediately reply VERBALLY when I speak to you. You will keep a fresh pitcher of tea in the refrigerator for me. At times, I will request that you massage me, brush my hair, scrub my back, or give attention to my person. You will do so joyfully and immediately. You will come to bed each evening exquisitely clean, sweet smelling and sweet tasting in case I wish to have you. You will scratch me as usual.

If I secure you a money making position that requires your time outside the house, you will do all of the things above in addition to your working duties. Any funds that you make at an outside position will come to me for payment of previous expenses and ongoing expenses required to support the family. You will NEVER make phone calls without my permission or without me being present. You will write letters to your family only...always in English. You will converse in English in the house. You will accept no phone

calls.

When we make love, I expect that you do so at any and all times and with enthusiasm. I also require that you kiss and stroke my entire body both before and during lovemaking. You must remember that the genitals are only one part of the body and that it is the entire body that responds and finds pleasure in making love. You will do everything that is within your power and intelligence to make the experience a pleasure for me each and every time. If you do so, then you will probably have pleasure as well. You will not only be willing, but you will practice the art of seduction in order to increase my interest and pleasure. It is your responsibility to see to it that my sleep is as restful as possible.

You will review the things that the children are to do each day and see to it that it is done. The way to keep me in good humor is for the household to function smoothly and for everyone to do exactly as is expected of them without griping and grumbling.