



Monday, August 25, 1997

Subject: Spanking

Dear Dr. Ryrie: In today's world of over-reactive social services, how is discipline (spanking) best handled in public places such as restaurants, grocery stores, etc.? --Cheryl C.

Dear Cheryl: Happily my own children grew up before all the "over-reactive social services" (as you so well put it!) were on the prowl. A parent does have to be very careful about disciplining in public. The safest policy would be to avoid spanking in public. Perhaps you could do that in the rest room if it is empty, but again, be very cautious. Better to move the child to a quiet place and have a "time out."

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