

Q & A: Divorced twice and concerned about sons
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Question: “I’ve been divorced twice and I’m concerned that this has hurt my two sons’ idea of relationships and marriage. What can I do?”

Answer: And, you should be worried that your two boys are seeing relationships begun, yet end in disaster. Kids get their most important information about the world and it’s workings from the way that their folks handle relationships; and seeing you either make inappropriate choices in marriage, or mishandling disagreements or putting up with improper behavior haven’t been good lessons. So, sit the kids down and explain, briefly and not in too much detail, what you are going to do in the future to avoid more drama and disaster. Regardless of whose “fault” the marital failures were in your mind, you do need to take some of the responsibility. Explain your failings (again briefly) and how you will do otherwise in the future. This teaches your sons that folks can make mistakes, but the important thing is to learn from these errors and to not give up. Take your time getting into your next relationship and be sure to look for the red flags. Trust me, they are always there, you just have to be willing to see them! Also, encourage your sons to spend time with family members who are in stable, well-adjusted relationships so that they can see, first hand, that healthy communication and successful problem solving does exist. Spending weekends and vacations with friends or family whose marriages are comfortable will go a long way toward proving to them that it is possible to establish a healthy family, and that this is what they should be looking for themselves as they grow to adulthood.