

Melissa Etheridge and Ex Tammy Lynn Fight Over Money



Melissa Etheridge and Tammy Lynn Michael's divorce battle is still ongoing. Michaels recently requested for a bump in child support payments, reports [E! Online](#). Etheridge, 50, replied to the request with 100-plus pages of custody-related documents. In the documents, Etheridge claims that Michaels is "angry and vindictive" and sees herself as their twins' "primary parent and as the person who should control their time." A hearing for this latest conflict is scheduled for May 22nd.

What are some ways to keep money from coming between you as a couple?

Cupid's Advice:

Dealing with money and day-to-day aspects of life can sometimes put a damper on your relationship. Here are a few ways to keep money from coming between you:

1. Humility: Chances are, you and your partner have different salaries. You may earn a significant amount more than your partner, or vice versa. If this is the case, remember to remain supportive and humble. Don't brag about your earnings or be jealous of your partner's earnings.

2. Equal contribution: If you and your partner have been together for a long while, you should both contribute to your living expenses. Try to split the costs as evenly as possible to minimize any conflict.

3. Pre-nup: If you and your partner are hoping to be married, consider a prenuptial agreement. With the agreement, you and your partner can keep your financial assets separate. In the unfortunate event of a divorce, the divorce proceedings will be made much simpler.

How do you and your partner handle money and spending? Feel free to leave a comment below.

Melissa Etheridge Is In a New Relationship with Best Friend





After a nasty split from wife Tammy Lynn Michaels last year, Melissa Etheridge has entered the dating world again – with her best friend. Etheridge began dating *Nurse Jackie* creator Linda Wallem three months after the breakup. A friend of the couple tells *People*, “Melissa and Linda have been best friends for over 10 years,” adding that Linda was “best man” at Melissa’s wedding to Tammy in 2003. The new couple, who share the same birthday and turn 50 in May, “are in a committed relationship. They’re happy,” says the pal.

Should you risk losing a friendship by taking it to the next level?

Cupid’s Advice:

If you’re feeling something more for your friend and want to take a risk, is it worth it? Cupid has some tips on how to know if you should take the jump:

1. Observe: Before actually asking your friend if he has feelings, too, and making things awkward, observe. Watch his interactions with other girls, and see if he treats you

differently.

2. Ask yourself if you're in love: Some confuse closeness and intimacy with love. Make sure you really have romantic feelings before you take the next big step. If you just think he'd make a good husband, but aren't actually attracted to him, it might lead to heartbreak.

3. Think about the future: Not all couples are meant to last. Are you and your friend compatible romantically? If you don't see the relationship lasting, it's probably better to stay friends.

Melissa Etheridge's Custody Battle





Melissa Etheridge is singing a different tune these days as she and her ex, Tammy Lynn Michaels, are facing off in a custody battle. According to [RadarOnline](#), Michaels filed for full custody of the couple's 3-year old twins last week. The couple broke up after nearly nine years together, when Etheridge filed to officially dissolve their partnership earlier this month, citing irreconcilable differences. The singer asked for joint custody of the children, and that the court not award any financial support to Michaels. The actress has been verbal about her feelings concerning the issue.

What should you know before you engage in a custody battle?

Cupid's Advice:

A custody battle may be one of the biggest fights of your life. Let Cupid help:

1. Why the fight? Are you engaging in a custody battle for legitimate reasons, or are you fighting just to make your ex suffer? Regardless of what happens, you're both parents to the child, and his or her best interests should be put first.

2. Remain civil: As difficult as it may be, remain polite when it comes to the kids. You don't want the court to see you as a person who can't control their feelings.

3. Become a record keeper: Prove you are a good parent. Record all activities you do with the child, as well as any problems you have with your ex.

Melissa Etheridge's Ex Surprised by Divorce





Melissa Etheridge filed divorce papers to end her nine-year domestic relationship with actress Tammy Lynn Michaels on Saturday, [E! Online](#) reported. Michaels commented on the news that day on her blog, and wrote, “Gentle waves/ no noise for awhile/ or maybe gentle voices/and SMACK!!!! FILE FOR DIVORCE!!!!/ even though we both promised, agreed, handshook, pinkyswore/no filing until after tour/in the fall,” Michaels wrote Saturday. “Her broken promises told to me by headlines....could you stop blind sighting me?/ Have a good concert.” The 49-year-old singer filed on the grounds of irreconcilable differences, and requested that Michaels receive no financial support. The actress’ response? “I know she doesn’t want to give me money. trust. i’m borrowing cash left and right from people to get through this summer, and feed my kids, with a stomach full of ulcers, thank you. no stress here. :-)”

How can you deal with the financial burden of divorce?

Cupid’s Advice:

Divorce is typically a financial burden for both parties.

Read Cupid's suggestions for coping with a decreased cash flow.

1. Be mindful: Before spending money, ask yourself whether the purchase will bring long-term enjoyment, or just temporary pleasure.

2. Create a budget: Creating a budget will provide the financial organization needed to save for future monetary needs.

3. Allow others to help: Let go of your pride and acceptance assistance. Help may come from friends, family, or even the government. If you need it, ask, before you dig yourself deep into debt.