

StepMom

ONLINE MAGAZINE

Article Submission Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in submitting material to *StepMom Magazine*. Our editorial team carefully reviews all content and reserves the right to edit copy for clarity, grammatical accuracy and appropriate magazine and AP Style Guide format.

Authors whose articles are selected will be notified by email. Articles written by licensed therapists, researchers, clinicians and professional writers will be given priority consideration. Space is limited, therefore submission does not guarantee placement. We reserve the right to decline an article for a number of reasons, including but not limited to the content, relevance, space limitations or because we've previously published a similar article.

- ***StepMom Magazine* publishes online the first day of every month.**
- **Please email article submissions to: Publisher@StepMomMagazine.com**
- **Recommended word count: 800-1500**

OUR READERS LIKE ARTICLES THAT CONTAIN:

- Educational, actionable, informative content
- First-person essays that illustrate and validate the stepmom experience
- Tips, how-to's, links or leads* to additional resources
- Quotes from subject-matter experts
- Interviews about interesting, notable stepmoms or stepfamilies

* Leads often appear as in-text citations. When appropriate, *StepMom* recommends that you cite (3-5) credible sources in each of your stories to support your findings or opinions. For example:

- * The Four Horsemen, explained John M. Gottman, PhD, ...
- * In "Stepmonster," Wednesday Martin, PhD, outlines ...
- * Loyalty binds, said Patricia L. Papernow, EdD, are ...

DEADLINES

Edition	Copy Deadline	Holidays & Seasonal Events
January	Nov. 1	New Year, Resolutions, Engagements
February	Dec. 1	Valentines, Relationship, Couples, Love
March	Jan. 1	St. Patrick's Day
April	Feb. 1	Taxes/Money, Easter, Parental Alienation Awareness
May	March 1	Mother's Day, Graduations, Proms, Weddings,
June	April 1	Father's Day (For the Men Issue)
July	May 1	Summer Vacation, 4 th of July
August	June 1	Summer Vacation
September	July 1	Back to School, Education, Nat'l Stepfamily Day

October	Aug. 1	Halloween
November	Sept. 1	Thanksgiving, Holidays, Election Day
December	Oct. 1	Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanza

MOST REQUESTED TOPICS

- Mom/Stepmom Relationship Dynamics, Conflict Management
- Parenting/Discipline Challenges; His-Hers-Our Challenges
- Outsider Syndrome / Loyalty Binds / Disengaging / Parental Alienation
- Custodial / Non-custodial / Child-free / Child-less Stepmom Issues
- Teenagers, Young Adult, Grown Stepchildren
- Child Support / Visitation / Legal & Court Matters
- Day-to-Day Scenarios: attending kids' events, labels/what to call everyone, transferring clothes/belongings between homes, pick-ups & drop offs, household chores, sibling relationships, etc.

EXCLUSIVE CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

To provide our readers with original content, *StepMom Magazine* requires that all submissions must be exclusive to *StepMom Magazine* and not published elsewhere and/or available on the Internet (including websites, blogs or social media pages). *Book excerpts excluded.

REPOSTING POLICY

Once published in *StepMom Magazine*, the author may *not* repost their article online or in other publications. The author may post single paragraph previews, excerpts and/or teasers of their article not to exceed 75 words which must include a reference and hyperlink back to *StepMom Magazine's* home page or the back issue page on *StepMom Magazine's* website which contains the article.

EDITING

All articles that appear in *StepMom Magazine* are edited for grammar, format and style. We reserve the right to change titles, wordsmith for clarity and correct grammar and spelling.

FORMATTING & STYLE

1. The words **stepmom**, **stepfamily**, **stepmother**, **stepbrother**, **stepsister**, **stepkids**, etc., should always appear as one word, lowercased without hyphens.

2. The words **ex-wife**, **ex-husband**, **in-laws**, etc., Should appear as one word, lowercased and hyphenated. (**Ex in-law** should be treated as such.)

3. Submissions should be sent electronically in the form of a Word document. Please label your document as follows:

Your Last Name.Month Of Intended Publication.2020.doc (SAMPLE: **Smith.January.2020.doc**)

4. All documents must be:

- * 12 point, Times New Roman font
- * Single-spaced
- * Use only one space after periods between sentences

5. Spell-check and proof all documents thoroughly before submitting.

6. Refrain from any self-promotion (books, websites, coaching businesses, products) within the content of your articles. *StepMom Magazine* will make every effort to promote your endeavors by providing links on our website, mentioning you on Social Media and including your photo, logo and/or bio at the footer of each article you submit in the monthly issue. (See bio specs below.)

7. Refrain from using the terms “blended family” or “bonus family/mom” and use the more neutral and clinical terms “stepfamily” and “stepmom” as recommended by the National Stepfamily Resource Center: <http://www.stepfamilies.info/faq.php#why-use-stepfamily>

8. Please keep in mind that many of *StepMom Magazine’s* readers are not/were not married and our audience also includes stepmoms in same-gender unions. Using a variety of neutral identifiers (partner, significant other, the ex, the biological parents, etc.) helps ensure that all readers will identify to your article.

9. Include points in your article that speak to all stepmoms (when possible) including: custodial, non-custodial, child-less, child-free, ours-baby households, those with young children, stepmoms of adult kids, etc.

TITLES & DECKS

StepMom Magazine requests that all articles begin with a short, catchy title to attract reader attention. Please also include a longer descriptive deck to let the reader know what she will learn or gain by reading the article. Be sure to include important keywords like: stepmom, stepfamily, stepkids, ex-wife, remarriage, etc. Here are some good examples:

Stepmother Taboos

Things You Can’t Say or Do—In Mixed Company

Help! I Don’t Like My Stepkids

What to Do When Your Stepfamily is Struggling

Stepmoms and Outsider Syndrome

7 Ways to Ease the Pain of Feeling Left Out

The Stepmom Stepback

Know the Difference Between Detaching and Disengaging

Parental Alienation

An Interview With Jennifer Harman, PhD

The Superwoman Balancing Act

Secrets for Women Who Are Moms AND Stepmoms

PARAGRAPH/SECTION DIVIDERS

Readers like to know what’s coming next and long blocks of copy aren’t magazine-friendly. Break up complex subjects and long blocks of copy by using short, succinct paragraph dividers. These can be a single word or a short statement. Or, if you’re providing readers with a how-to list, be sure to provide a lead-in phrase or line that can be bolded. This allows readers to scan an article for points of interest and also helps them to anticipate what’s next. Here are a few examples:

Your Stepchildren May Live on Fantasy Island.

When the mother of your stepchildren is gone, whether by death or by choice, your stepchildren often fantasize about what life would be like if mom were around. For children whose mom has chosen to leave, or who no longer sees them due to poor choices, they can...

Tension

It could be that his adult children are jealous of the attention their dad is bestowing on you rather than them. If they are the type of people who continually seek approval from one or both of their parents, they may feel that you are...

WRITER BIOS & HEADSHOTS

StepMom Magazine will include an author's bio and photo/headshot at the end of each article. Please submit this information to: Publisher@StepMomMagazine.com with your article.

Bio word count = 75 words maximum

Photo: Professional Headshot / B&W or Color

COMPENSATION

StepMom Magazine does not reimburse for its editorial content. The magazine will, however, assist in promoting a contributing writer's business and professional efforts (books, business, blogs, etc.) through links and mentions of your interests wherever possible and applicable. Cross promotion efforts will be handled between the Publisher and the Author on an individual basis.

By submitting material to StepMom Magazine, the Author agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Publisher, its editors, contractors, and agents from any and all claims, damages and expenses which may arise for alleged breach of author warranties, to hereby assign any and all rights, including any copyright to the submitted article to the publisher. The Publisher may publish the article in the intended publication, and in additional media in print or electronically, including the Internet, and the Publisher may at its discretion authorize reprinting and reuse of the article, with pledge to acknowledge the Author's authorship. Author acknowledges that: submission of article is not a guarantee of publication, and the publisher, its editors, contractors, and agents may edit the article for any purpose, including but not limited to style, length, content, consistency and/or to provide editorial clarification. The Author warrants that information submitted in article: is factual and truthful, does not contain libelous or unlawful statements or medical claims, does not infringe upon the rights of others, contains no information which may cause harm or injury, the article has not been copyrighted by any other entity, no previous publication copyright exists for the submitted article, and hereby assigns author copyright, if any, to the Publisher.