

## **My Law of Life**

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Everybody expresses love differently. Sometimes love isn't obvious so you have to learn how to see it. I learned this law of life by living with my family. I was born profoundly deaf. This was a surprise to my parents and I think it was a challenge to my brothers, but they all love me and they show it in their own ways. The different ways my family loves me has helped me get past my deafness and they are still helping me today.

It is easiest to see my mother's love. My mother is the biggest part of my life. She and I have a great bond. Sometimes we argue and yell at each other but she never gives up on me. She helps me cope with my deafness in many ways. When I was little, my mother found me a speech therapist to go to so I could learn to speak clearly. She tirelessly worked to find a note-taker and a special tutor for me in school. Every time my mother and I go to a special event, she takes a notepad and pencil with her and she jots down what the host is saying so I will understand it. One of her ways of loving me is to be sure my deafness doesn't get in the way of what I want to do.

My father is different. He is a quiet person. He likes to joke around a lot and he loves to watch sports including my games. I watch sports with him and he can always teach me a thing or two about sports. He does not speak up a lot like my mother but he shows his love in other ways. When I was a little girl, he got me pets like birds and a dog because he wanted me to have someone to be there for me. He encouraged me to play on a basketball travel team because he thought it would help me make friends. He was the one who wanted me to have a special cell phone so I could communicate with people and a car so I could be independent. He shows how much he cares by working hard so I will have the things I need.

I also have two brothers, one 4 ½ years younger and other is 4 ½ years older. Like many younger brothers, mine can be annoying but sometimes when he is in good mood, he teaches me how to play a video game or tells me a rumor about a movie coming out soon. He is really into music and he once taught me how to play his guitar even though I can't really hear music. He tries to make me feel like a hearing person. My older brother just graduated from college and I look up to him a lot. He tells me not to start smoking ever because he knows how hard it is to quit. He looks out for me. One time, we went to a basketball game in Detroit and got stuck in the parking lot after the game. A driver tried to cut us off and bumped into us. The driver hopped out of the car cursing. My older brother quickly rolled up the windows and locked the doors. It made me feel good to know deep inside my older brother wanted to protect me. In their own ways, my brothers care about me even though it may not always be easy to see their love.

I have not always appreciated my family's love, but I am beginning to understand that everybody expresses their love differently. I will take this law of life out in the world with me, and I will look more carefully for the ways people show they care. There are so many ways of

expressing love. For example, my travel basketball coach expresses her love by spraying silly string on the team after a tough practice. One of my teachers shows how much he cares by giving out really hard assignments. The students may hate it but he really wants them to be prepared for the future. One of my close friends made me feel cared for because she asked questions about what it's like being deaf. These are ways of expressing love that go unnoticed unless you are paying close attention. My family has taught me to find love in unexpected places, and I will always love them for that.