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WENDY WILLIAMS FIGHTS FOR FREEDOM

Inside Her Battle for Control Over Her Life

When did you last hear Wendy Williams' iconic "How you doin'?" It's likely been a few years, and it's not because you didn't tune in to her daytime talk show. Actually, Williams hasn't filmed an episode of her talk show since 2022. It's not because she got tired of the responsibility or was taken off the air due to unpopularity. Williams effectively disappeared after an incident with Wells Fargo led to a court-appointed guardian taking over her financial affairs.

Williams learned that Wells Fargo had frozen her accounts after she attempted to make multiple large withdrawals from her bank account. Even more unsettling, her financial advisor, through Wells Fargo, notified the bank that Williams was of "unsound mind,"



which prompted a court-ordered guardianship. Initially, many believed this was solely a financial guardianship, but the Hollywood Reporter revealed that the court-appointed guardian was overseeing nearly everything in Williams' life.

So, how did Wendy Williams end up in this situation? In 2024, her care team disclosed that the talk show host had been diagnosed with frontotemporal dementia and aphasia. Information related to her situation came from various sources but nothing directly from Williams for many years. She has recently started taking phone interviews and making television appearances and has clearly disagreed with the situation since 2022.

Wendy Williams states she has been living in a memory unit in New York City for the past three years but does not think she belongs there. "Look, I don't belong here at all," stated Williams during a phone interview with "Nightline." "This is ridiculous."

Williams is actively fighting for her freedom, and one source even told ABC News that Williams' court-appointed attorney was planning to file a request to terminate the guardianship. The fact that she's getting opportunities to share her side of the story provides hope to her fans, but only time will tell how this will unravel.



SECRET VOWS AND SANDY TOES

A SURPRISE WEDDING TO REMEMBER

As I write this, I'm keeping a big secret — my daughter, Sierra, is getting married on May 17, and it's not just any wedding, but a surprise beach wedding! But let's rewind a bit because this story is just too sweet not to share.

Sierra met her fiancé, Jose, in the most modern, unexpectedly romantic way — through a language learning app. She was living in Canada at the time and wanted to improve her Spanish. Jose, a Mexican national, was looking to sharpen his English. The app connected them for language exchange — she wanted to improve her Spanish and he wanted to improve his English — and what started with simple conversation slowly blossomed into a love story. After months of chatting, they met in person, and the rest, as they say, is history. They've been together for over three years now.

Jose was working toward his Canadian citizenship while earning a degree in Canada at the same time Sierra was studying there, too. He hoped she'd make Canada her forever home, but life had other plans. Sierra was accepted into an incredible certified anesthesiologist assistant program in the U.S., and after much discussion, they decided to build their life together here. Jose agreed to leave snowy Montreal behind for Florida.

Now comes the fun part: the surprise wedding! The day before, on May 16, Sierra's sister, Savannah, is having her baby shower. Everyone in the family is already planning to be in North Carolina, so Sierra had this beautiful idea to have a simple beach wedding the very next day. She checked in with Savannah first to make sure she wasn't stealing the spotlight, and Savannah absolutely loved the idea.

So, I rented an Airbnb at Manatee Beach, told all the siblings to pack some "nice clothes" because we were doing a "family photo shoot," and now, before this newsletter goes to print, I'm just patiently waiting for two of the best days for my daughters. By the time you read this, Sierra and Jose will have said their "I do's" on the sand at Nags Head, surrounded by close family and a sunset.

We've been pulling everything together quickly, but it's coming together perfectly. We hired a small, elopement-style wedding



company, and we're expecting around 30 guests. We'll have a small setup with chairs, an arch, and an officiant, and after the ceremony, there will be cake, dinner, and a beach bonfire to celebrate!

Jose has been amazing throughout the process. He even spent time visiting Sierra in Florida, where she's in school now, to really make sure he'd be happy with the move. It wasn't an easy decision for him — he spent years working toward Canadian citizenship. Moving again to the U.S. means starting that process all over. But they both agreed it was the best choice, and I admire their courage and commitment.

So, yes, between Sierra's wedding, Savannah's baby shower, and two more kids graduating from college, we've been living in a beautiful blur of milestones. I'm so proud of every one of them. They've already picked up their marriage license, and I have the photo of them waving it on the courthouse steps! This sweet, sandy wedding will undoubtedly be one for the books.

Cheers to love, new beginnings, and all of my incredible children!

-Ruby Bolton

Turn Their Dreams Into Reality What It Takes to Adopt a Child

Welcoming a new child into the family is one of the most exciting and life-changing events we can experience. While many Americans conceive with their significant other, others explore the world of adoption. According to the most recent Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System report, approximately 114,000 foster children are eligible and waiting to be adopted. By adopting a child, you give them a place to call home, a family who cares for them, and experiences they would never have had without you.

If you're interested in adopting a child, you're probably wondering what requirements you must meet to be eligible. Adoption is not a quick process: Domestic adoptions usually take up to two years to process, while international adoptions often take 2–5 years since you must follow American adoption rules and the guidelines of the child's home country. These rules are strict, as most countries do not want to place children in unsafe conditions. Here are five of the U.S.'s adoption requirements.

Age

Both prospective parents must be at least 21 to be eligible to adopt. While this is a minimum age requirement, there is no cutoff age, so even those in their golden years can consider adoption.



Health

You need to be there for your new child, especially as they adjust to their new home and environment, but you can't do that if you're battling a serious illness. Stable medical and emotional health are requirements for prospective adoptive parents. Those with a history of chronic illness or currently facing a serious condition must get a letter from their primary physician that states they are physically stable enough to raise the child until they turn 16. If one or both parents have a current or past psychiatric illness, you also need a doctor's statement assuring stability. All members of the household must prove they are physically and emotionally stable.

Criminal History

Having prior convictions does not immediately disqualify you but makes things much more difficult. All household members over age 18 must pass a child abuse clearance process. If you or another adult in the home has an arrest history, you must provide personal statements about the incident. Depending on the seriousness of the crime, you may be considered ineligible or require rehabilitation before moving forward.

Finances

Raising a child isn't cheap. According to the Institute of Family Studies, the expected cost of raising a child is \$202,248–\$430,928. There is no specified income requirement to be eligible to adopt, but you must prove you have the necessary resources to provide for the child. You should also consider other adoption costs, such as travel and adoption service fees.

Home Environment

An adopted child will spend ample time within your home, so the environment must be safe and accommodating to their needs. You must allow the agency to conduct a home study to ensure your house is safe and well-maintained. You may need to provide references that speak to your ability to care for and manage children. You should also be prepared to discuss your adoption and parenting plan.

Adopting a child is a serious decision you should not take lightly. If approved, you will be responsible for another human's life, development, and health. After you verify you meet all the requirements listed above, take some time to explore your state-specific requirements. The adoption process is complicated and sometimes disheartening, but stick with it. It will be one of the best decisions you make in your and your adopted child's lives!

TAKE A BREAK





This light, flavorful dish of tender, marinated beef slices can serve as a protein-rich appetizer or a tasty entree for a summer evening.

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups light brown sugar
- 1 cup soy sauce
- 1/2 cup pineapple juice (optional)
- 1/2 cup water

- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 3 large garlic cloves, chopped
- 4 lbs boneless round steak, cut into 1/4-inch-thick slices
- Bamboo skewers soaked in water

Directions

- In a large bowl, whisk brown sugar, soy sauce, pineapple juice, water, vegetable oil, and garlic together. Drop beef slices into the mixture and stir to coat.
- Cover bowl with plastic wrap and marinate in a refrigerator for 24 hours.
- 3. Remove beef from marinade, shaking to remove excess liquid.
- 4. Thread beef slices on skewers in a zig-zag pattern.
- 5. Preheat grill to medium heat and lightly oil the grate.
- 6. Cook beef skewers for about 3 minutes per side until the meat is cooked through.



Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant, and the Art of Speaking Like an Aristocrat

There's a certain charm to old Hollywood movies — glamorous stars, sweeping orchestral scores, and, of course, that oddly posh, vaguely British way of speaking. You know the one. The voice makes Katharine Hepburn sound like she's perpetually midway through an important luncheon and Cary Grant appear to deliver a one-liner while also sipping afternoon tea. This isn't just a coincidence; it's the **Transatlantic accent**, and for a while, it was the gold standard of sophisticated speech.

Unlike normal regional dialects, the Transatlantic accent wasn't something people naturally developed by growing up in a particular area. It was an *acquired* accent drilled into the minds of upper-crust New Englanders at elite boarding schools and embraced by stage actors who wanted to sound refined. Essentially, it was the linguistic equivalent of wearing a tuxedo at all times.

Hollywood, never one to pass up a trend, adopted this cultivated accent in the early days of talkies. Why? Because it made actors sound polished, articulate, and, quite frankly, fancy. The crisp, clipped tones worked wonders for those speedy, back-and-forth screwball comedy exchanges. Just watch "His Girl Friday" and try not to be dazzled by the machine-gun dialogue between Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell!

And then, just as suddenly as it arrived, the Transatlantic accent packed its bags and vanished. By the 1950s, Hollywood started shifting away from aristocratic dramas and high-society stories, opting instead for gritty realism and everyday characters. The era of Marlon Brando and James Dean meant mumbling was in, and sounding like you vacationed on the French Riviera every summer was ... well, out.

Of course, we can still enjoy the legacy of the Transatlantic accent in classic films. Want to master it yourself? Pick up "Speak With Distinction" by Edith Skinner, the holy grail of old-school elocution training. Soon enough, you'll drop your R's, crisp your T's, and stretch your vowels until "dance" becomes "dahnce." After all, old Hollywood may be gone, but its impeccable enunciation will never go out of style.