

AITA Discussion Exercise 1B



Posted by u/pragmaticsearch 7 hours ago



1.1k



AITA for not doing anything 'hostess-y' for my in-laws visit, given I'm 3 weeks postpartum?

My husband's family lives on the other side of the country. We had our first child at the height of Covid, so my husband's parents, sister, and her family did not meet him in person until his first birthday.

I just delivered our second two weeks ago, and my husband's family (4 adults and 3 kids) asked if they could all visit during spring break to see the baby (which is the end of next week). I said OK.

Although the 7 of them would be staying at an Airbnb, I know they will be spending all day every day at our home to see the kids. I told my husband to make sure they know we will be ordering in every meal, and beyond eggs and cereal and some drinks and snacks (i.e. chips and fruit), I wasn't planning to get much else. I'm also tired and up with the baby all night, I'm still trying to get breastfeeding established, and I'm exhausted at the very thought of 7 people being in my house every day for a week while I'm trying to nurse and rest and manage a toddler's big emotions around a new sibling.

His response was 'Well we are going to need X and X for my parents and X for the kids, and I was thinking one day I can make X.' And he started describing needing to get the 'best' bread and the 'best' cheese... all of which involves trips to numerous places. He even said he was going to ask my dad (who occasionally buys us some specialty grocery stuff that I ask for and drops it off) to pick up a bunch of items for them.

At this point, I got really mad. I said 'I am not trying to go above and beyond here and play host when I'm 3 weeks postpartum. They can eat the stuff from the grocery store even if it's not the best and deal for 5 days.' He told me I sound spiteful.

I was also frustrated because when his family visits, my husband checks out and just plays with his nephews and chats for hours with his BIL, and I know I'm going to be the one setting out snacks, tidying up, etc. He seems more concerned with his family having fun, the visit being a good time, and with them being comfortable, than with me getting what I need. I feel like it doesn't matter what I ask for - he isn't going to have my back, so I have to protect myself and my own well-being.

We got in a big fight about it. I yelled at him and am not really talking to him now. They show up next week, and I'm feeling a lot of anger and resentment about it.

So... am I the asshole for not 'lifting a finger' for my visitors?



268 Comments



Award



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Hot-Plum-874 · 7 hr. ago

Asshole Aficionado [10]



NTA, omg, THEY should be helping you!!!

↑ 2.4k ↓ Reply Share ...



daja-kisubo · 7 hr. ago



Right?! What the actual fuck. Not just "he should do all the fancy host stuff instead of OP" but like. ThebILs should only be showing up if they plan to help, not if they plan to be catered to. Imagine showing up at a new parents' house without food to serve them! I'm seriously like scandalized over here lmao

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HulaHulaHula1983 · 2 hr. ago



I walked in the door with my 3rd (my other two were 2 & 4) and my mom plopped on the couch and goes, "So (me), what's for dinner?" She's a classic narcissist and after 5 children of her own, somehow never managed to lift a finger in my home post-partum and expected to be catered to. OP stand firm. You are still healing and your husband sucks for putting you in the position of playing host while also leaving the child rearing to you while his family is there.

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asecretnarwhal · 1 hr. ago

Partassipant [1]



Completely! If it's a priority to him, HE needs to get all these special foods and ready the house. Your only job right now is to care for your new baby.

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lawrencek1992 · 4 hr. ago



OMG right? If there is anything to criticize OP for, I'd say she should make the boundary even more firm! I think they should either only be seeing the family-in-law outside of the house at activities family-in-law organizes (walk to a park and kids play on playground, sit by a pond and kids feed ducks frozen peas, meet in the library for a read aloud event and have a snack outside after, family-in-law organizes a picnic, family goes out for an inexpensive dinner the kids will like, etc). Or else family-in-law can not come at all.

Only one person in this entire story recently grew a whole new human--OP. And that's just pregnancy! Childbirth is CRAZY.... I don't know or care how exactly OP did it, but I know that any form of childbirth is at best incredibly physically demanding, or at worst it can be painful/scary/traumatic. OP deserves rest, support, and bonding time with her now-one-person-larger family. Anyone who is detracting from OP's ability to access those things does not deserve to be near her or her home.

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failingupwards114 · 2 hr. ago



At three weeks out, OP is probably still bleeding and dealing with stitches of some sort. Birth makes you feel like you've been in a car accident for weeks, and you're taking care of a helpless infant on top of that. Hosting duties go squarely in the Fuck That pile. NTA.

↑ 45 ↓ Reply Share ...



RndmIntrntStranger · 3 hr. ago

Partassipant [3]



hopping on the top comment to say that unless the husband pushed a watermelon out of his body, he gets no say in how OP spends her postpartum recovery **that she needs**.

NTA OP. do not play hostess. if he wants to play host, then he can take on ALL of the host responsibilities. you are convalescing after a medical procedure.

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beansareso_ · 7 hr. ago

Asshole Enthusiast [5]

NTA at all. Husband should take toddler to visit at their airbnb some days or for a fancy dinner if they feel the need. Or if you're comfortable have the in-laws take toddler to the park, out to their Airbnb, etc.

Sure they want to see the baby, but they truly do not need to be there 24/7. You and the baby are still going to need lots of 1 on 1 time and rest. You don't need a bustling house as well.

I'm sorry your husband doesn't see it this way. When my in laws visited at 3 weeks I still felt a bit overwhelmed, but I was cleaning zero and cooking zero. My MIL took care of so much & they left us with groceries and a clean house.

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Edcrfvh · 7 hr. ago

Asshole Aficionado [18]

Nice ILs. This is what visitors in this situation should do.

↑ 22 ↓ Reply Share ...



Ok_Bookkeeper_3481 · 7 hr. ago 🌟

Asshole Enthusiast [8]

It takes 6-8 weeks for the body to recover from regular, uncomplicated birth. So, in addition to nursing the newborn, while - presumably - taking care of your older kid, your body is still healing. You cannot be expected to play hostess.

Your husband is understandably excited by his relatives' arrival, and wants to put his best foot forward - but you cannot be involved in the preparation for the visit.

So - let him do as much as he is comfortable doing *on his own*. Let him buy the best cheese money can get. Also, let *him* plan the visits and order food (don't you have enough on your hands right now?).

And ask him to remind his relatives that they will have to help with prep and cleanup (if he feels it would be too much for him).

If he has problems with any of this, refer him to the Guidelines of the American Association for Obstetrics and Gynecology, which define recovery period as the first 6 weeks after birth (8, if it was a c-section):

<https://americanpregnancy.org/healthy-pregnancy/first-year-of-life/postpartum-recovery/>

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kahnricardo · 3 hr. ago

This comment needs to be higher. +1. Well thought out.

Op is NTA, husband needs to put in some effort here, having a baby is rough and 3 weeks after birth for visitors that need to be entertained is a LOT to ask.

I wonder what op's husband's response might be to this post? Is he mature enough to see he's ta? Or will he dig in and disagree more? I hope for all involved that he's mature enough to step up to the plate and help his pp wife and figure out how to balance the visit and not put his wife out.

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