

Effortless English

Obsessive Behavior

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PARENTS DENY PROBABLE CAUSE OF SON'S OBSESSIVE BEHAVIOR

DEAR ABBY:

My nephew, "Vincent," is 16 and has had problems with **obsessive** handwashing for years. I have enough professional experience to strongly suspect that he suffers from obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD).

My brother and his wife **refuse** to believe their child has a problem and will not take him to get help. My nephew's hands are **chafed** and raw, and his parents **reprimand** him for this behavior when he really needs professional help.

His mother is the biggest problem. She **nixes** all issues that suggest a problem, and my brother will not **stand up to** her. What can I do?

-- WORRIED AUNT IN FLORIDA