

# The Art of Enforceable Statements for the Home

by Jim Fay

UNENFORCEABLE: Please sit down. We're going to eat now.

ENFORCEABLE: You may eat as soon as you are seated.

UNENFORCEABLE: Please be quiet. I can't listen to your brother when you are both talking at the same time.

ENFORCEABLE: I'll be glad to listen to you as soon as your brother has finished listening to me.

UNENFORCEABLE: Clean your room so we can go shopping.

ENFORCEABLE: I'll be happy to take you shopping as soon as your room is clean.

UNENFORCEABLE: I'm not going to play ball with you until all of you are quiet.

ENFORCEABLE: I'll be happy to play ball with you as soon as it is quiet.

UNENFORCEABLE: Don't talk while I'm reading to you.

ENFORCEABLE: I will start reading to you again as soon as you have finished talking.

UNENFORCEABLE: You can't go out to play until you have finished your homework.

ENFORCEABLE: Feel free to go play as soon as you finish your homework.

UNENFORCEABLE: Don't shout at me.

ENFORCEABLE: I listen to people who do not shout at me.

UNENFORCEABLE: Pay attention.

ENFORCEABLE: I'll start again as soon as I know you are with me.

UNENFORCEABLE: Don't bother your sister.

ENFORCEABLE: You are welcome to stay with us as long as you are not bothering your sister.

UNENFORCEABLE: Keep your hands to yourself.

ENFORCEABLE: Feel free to stay with us when you keep your hands to yourself.

UNENFORCEABLE: Do your chores on time or you'll be grounded.

ENFORCEABLE: I'll be happy to let you go with your friends as soon as your chores are finished.

UNENFORCEABLE: Don't talk to me in that tone of voice.

ENFORCEABLE: I'll listen as soon as your voice is as calm as mine.

UNENFORCEABLE: You shown some respect.

ENFORCEABLE: I'll be glad to discuss this when respect is shown.

UNENFORCEABLE: I'm not picking up your dirty clothes.

ENFORCEABLE: I'll be glad to wash the clothes that are put in the laundry room.

UNENFORCEABLE: I'm not loaning you any more money.

ENFORCEABLE: I loan money to those who are debit free.