

PLANNING ON GETTING FIRED?

Just in case you have been living on another planet recently, let me remind you what are the easiest ways to ensure you get shown the door at work:

1. You could ignore all requests, directions or advice from your boss, or share confidential information openly, hence ensuring they quickly realize that the organizations' productivity would increase if you were no longer employed.
2. You could decide that the work hours quoted on your contract or letter of appointment were purely hypothetical guidelines and decide to make up new hours or attendance rules on a day-to-day basis, depending on how you feel when you wake up.
3. You could hand in work, which would frankly be an insult to the intelligence of a six-year-old child, by ensuring no attention to detail, and that spell check is something you don't know exists.
4. You could show incredible incompetence in all you do, leading your boss to question if you really did graduate or if you just bought your degree off the Internet.
5. You could argue on a constant basis with your boss, challenge their every decision in public and get fired on the grounds of insubordination.
6. You could decide to live life on the edge, pushing the boundaries of law on the amount of alcohol and drugs you decide to consume.

Most of us know that the above are sure tickets to 'job-seeker' status and therefore avoid falling into any of these categories. However, let us not forget that your employment is often viewed by your boss as a 'gift', which can be recalled at will. Often it has nothing to do with lack of effort or competence and more to do with global directives for organizations to 'down-size.'

If you fear your organization might be gearing up to layoff, don't fall into the panic of the general rumor mill. Talk to your boss or Human Resources confidentially to establish what to expect. If you see the writing on the wall, don't wait to get the shove, start up-dating your C.V. and networking now. Make sure you get references before you go.

In other instances, the reasons you are asked to leave could be more unethical. For instance, you could be fired because you don't support the same political party as your boss. Think I'm making it up? Well, CNN reported recently that in Georgia a lady was fired by a pro-Bush boss for putting a Kerry sticker on her car. Firing employees on the grounds of politics is only illegal in 5 states in the US.

Or you could have major personality conflicts with your boss so that they pick on any excuse to get rid of you – such as the fact that you are a smoker or have been sending personal email/browsing the net at work. In such environments you had better not step out of line in any way.

If the reason infringes on your rights, you should keep a diary of all conversations between yourself and the problem causer. Such instances include the threat of being fired unless you sleep with your boss/ superior (more common a problem than we like to believe) or if your boss constantly puts you down due to gender, race or religion. Keep those records and any other evidence (written/witnesses) and if you do get fired, in this case (unlike in the '6 ways to get fired' quoted above), the law should be on your side.

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