

WORLD OF WORK

CAREER DOCTOR



Paul Mullan

Q I am really unhappy in my current job. I am not interested in what I am doing and am having difficulties with my boss. Is it a good idea to pack it in and leave to free up time to look for a new job?

A This is an unfortunate situation and many employees face such problems. It would be great to have your days freed up to focus on career planning and job hunting but leaving your job may not be the best action to take. I strongly advise jobseekers against handing in their notice until they have secured alternative employment, no matter how bad things get. Having said that, it is a personal choice you must make.

When you are not working, you are not earning. We all have bills and expenses, and when you take away the income factor this can create problems. If you don't secure work quickly it can create additional pressure on you to find a job. This can force you into making bad choices and move you from the frying pan into the fire.

EMPLOYERS WILL WONDER WHY YOU LEFT A JOB WITHOUT ANOTHER ONE TO GO TO

Another problem with leaving your job without new employment is that it will attract the attention of potential employers. Most will view it with suspicion – they will wonder why you left a job without another one to go to and will ask why you left. I am sure most employers will also want a reference from your current company, and this may create its own problems.

Finally, in my years in recruitment and careers I've found that when people are out of work they struggle to secure work. The above point is a key contributor but I often put it down to Murphy's Law.

Take positive action to find alternative employment and if possible stay put until this has been achieved.

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