

## Avoid Getting Yourself Fired



“My momma always said, ‘Stupid is as Stupid Does.’” That famous epithet came rolling out of the mouth of Forrest Gump in the multi-Academy Award winning feature film of the same name. Forrest may not have been an intellectual genius, but he certainly understood the basic tenants of good, common sense. Why is it then that a man with an IQ of 75 can “get it” while so called intellectuals in high-paying corporate positions say and do stupid things that could ultimately lead to their firing? Perhaps it is because unlike Forrest Gump, most people don’t stop to think before they speak, act or worse yet react.

Here are just a few of the “stupid” things employees have been known to do at the office. Avoid them at all costs so you may not be the recipient of that dreaded pink slip followed by a swift, boot out the door.

**Making office time your time.** Doing personal work on company time is a big negative. Company time is company time. That means if you are late for work, call or email your friends and family from the office, take extended lunches, do errands on company time, leave the office early, you are guilty of wasting time that you are essentially being paid for.

**Dating your boss.** Talk about stupid. While it may seem exciting and romantic at first, dating the boss is a definite “no no.” You may think you are keeping it clandestine, but rest assured everyone knows. If anyone gets fired over the affair, it’s not going to be your boss.

**Gossiping about co-workers.** Water cooler conversations may spice up the day a bit, but in the end someone usually gets hurt. If the scuttlebutt you are spreading isn’t true, that someone could be you.

**Drinking alcohol on the Job.** Whether you imbibe at lunch or keep a flask in your desk drawer, consuming alcohol while working isn’t smart. It can lead to impaired judgement, loss of respect among your peers or worse.

**Criticizing your boss.** Think about it. When you take a swing at your boss either in person or via an unprofessional email, the only way that bat can swing is right back at you.

**Lying.** Whether you improvise about work experience on your resume or job application or come up with an excuse for why you didn’t make a deadline, your lies can make you subject to dismissal.

There are innumerable other situations that will cause you to get the boot, but if you take a moment to think before you act, your career could stay intact indefinitely.