

## DOES HR LOOK DOWN ON THE SELF-EMPLOYED?

*Summary: This article discusses how an HR department feels about the self-employed.*



**Question:** After five years of self-employment as a consultant, I'm attempting to rejoin the corporate world. But I've had great difficulty securing interviews, even for positions that would be a step down, but for which I'm clearly qualified. I'm wondering if HR people and other hiring managers see self-employment as a negative and, if so, how I might overcome that.

**Answer:** Self-employment per se isn't your problem. If you have the skills and personality a company is seeking, whether you come from another company or your own venture isn't important, say HR managers. I'd suggest re-calling the people you've contacted thus far and explain your need to understand why they haven't offered you interviews. While only a few may respond honestly (with your encouragement), that should be enough for you to learn the real problem, whether it's your resume, education, experience or lack of specific skills.