

UM...CAN I TAKE THOSE VACATION DAYS, NOW?



Where do I see myself in five years? Right now, I'm seeing myself in your office... standing over your body, revolver in hand... I pull my resume out of your filing cabinet, slowly crumple it, and drop it onto your mangled corpse. Then I'm like "Vacation approved!" as I walk out the door.

Could be as soon as three years. You never know.

You've been thinking about it for weeks, months --maybe even years-- about finally taking that accrued vacation time and spending it somewhere nice -- the Caribbean, Europe, New York City or maybe just with some long lost relatives in Albuquerque. Whether you've decided to sip mojitos on the beaches of Turks and Caicos, or White Zinfandel at the hotel bar in a random Midwestern town, you have to actually tell your boss or superior that you won't be in the office.

As with everything else in life, there are the right and wrong ways to go about asking for some, or all, of your vacation time. Done the right way, you're sure to sail swiftly away from any adversity management may have posed. If you muck it up, though, good luck dealing with the disappointment of missing the fabulous Aspen ski-trip with your buddies. Oh yeah, there will be ramifications at work, too.

The way you choose to handle matters such as requesting time off will reflect on your integrity, character, and work ethic. You may deserve those days, even *need* those days, but you need permission if you want to keep your job.

Several surefire ways to have your vacation request rejected are:

- 1) Waiting until the last minute -- give management the common courtesy to prepare for your absence. They'll appreciate your advanced request and respect.
- 2) Lying about why you are taking the time off. Chances are they'll see through it and not only will your request surely be thrown out the window, but your job may be thrown out with it.
- 3) Asking for vacation time when you've been slacking. If you've been noticeably lax on the job lately, don't think your boss hasn't made a mental note. If you don't deserve the time off, or if the company is in a busy time, don't be so sure you'll be granted your vacay wish.

It's true that certain jobs or employers are more poised to accept vacation requests, as some are simply more supportive of personal endeavors and pursuits. Just remember to be respectful with your request and you'll likely be on the way to your vacation destination regardless of your profession.

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