

Career Careening

Job/Career Ending Events

Things that can spell the end of your job. (Ranked in accordance to drama involved.)

1a) Mandatory retirement

#1) Industry/employer in decline: Your job is lost because fewer people need/want what you do (cobblers, librarians) or your employer is losing money (print journalists). In a unionized workplace, the employees with the least seniority are the first to go. In a non-unionized workplace, it's often the employees with the highest salaries.

#2) Competition: Somebody else will do your job better/cheaper/faster (Globalization)

#3) Injury: You get hurt on the job and cannot work. You may have to go on Worker's Compensation, which sounds good, but isn't. (Anyone)

#4) Costly mistake: You make a mistake on the job that costs your employer big. ("Honest" mistakes can be forgiven, but not "gross negligence" or repeated mistakes.) Your employer fires you on principle, but will never recover the loss or reverse the damage you've done. (Engineers, lawyers, investors, athletes)

#5) Lying: You lie to your employer/customer about the work you've done, the hours you've put in, etc...

#6) Theft: You steal from your employer (big or small, it doesn't really matter.) You're frog-marched out of the office and fired. People gossip about what happened as your former employer considers taking you to court and you try to figure out how to finesse your resume.

#7) Harassment/abuse/insubordination: You are accused* of harassing or abusing a co-worker or client (every other man in Hollywood). You could also be seen as be insubordinate to a supervisor. You are suspended with or without pay, you lose gigs, or are outright fired. (Anyone) *Usually there's an investigation/trial.

#8) Social media faux pas: You are outed (or out yourself) as a universally-detestable person (pariah) on social media. Your employer finds out, believes your bad press will spill over to the company, and fires you. (You may be able to get your job back with the help of a labour lawyer, but you probably won't like the new work environment.) Famous cases: Shawn Simoes, Justine Sacco & Lindsey Stone

#9) Fraudulent/Criminal employers: Turns out your boss was a crook, or maybe the whole business was crooked. Eventually the cops/government figures out and the next day you show up to work there's a lock on the door and you're wondering when you're going to see the back pay your boss owes you (no, he's in jail) and if your shares in the company can still be cashed in. (BreX, Enron)

If you lose your job, how will you get money?

#1) BEST-CASE SCENARIO – You get a “buy out package” or a severance that guarantees you full salary for a set period of time. You can even get paid by your old employer as you start working for a new employer.

#2) BETTER THAN NOTHING SCENARIO – You go on “Employment Insurance (EI)” which kicks in 6-8 weeks after losing your job. You’ve been paying for this insurance plan, might as well get some of your money back.

#3) NEXT-TO-NOTHING: EI benefits can last 14-45 weeks depending on a lot of factors. If you still can’t find work and it runs out, welfare is the only money you’ll be able to receive.