

Romance and Work, do they mix?

With the passing of valentines, I got to thinking about the appropriateness of flirtation and dating at work. If you are a traveler and single, should you date at work? After all, you won't be working there very long unless you fall madly in love and decided to stay. What would be the harm?

Personally, I think dating in the workplace is unprofessional and can be messy. However, I also believe it is up to the individual to decide. There are no set rules as to whether a person should date at work or not.

It is fun to talk about these situations. Recently, I surveyed a group of 25 traveling nurses and 60% of them say they think dating in the hospital is ok. Twenty eight percent think you should contain yourself and 12% felt unsure as to what to do.

Mary Lorenze with Careerbuilder.com wrote an article recently, discussing this same related topic about whether or not to flirt at work. While she points out that some authors believe it is ok to date at work, it is difficult to know where the boundaries are. She sums it up by saying, "when in doubt, keep it outside the office."

Well nurses don't work in an office. I wonder if anything has ever happened to a patient because the nurse or doctor was distracted by a co-worker's flirtation.

Of course, you always hear about the traveling nurses who meet at the hospital, get married, and travel around together.

I only dated someone in the hospital one time. I met an anesthesiologist resident while on assignment that I really wanted to date. I waited until the end of my contract and then I stayed with a friend in the area and worked at another place in town. I waited until my contract was over before going out with him. While he didn't turn out to be Mr. Right, I don't regret giving it a chance. I also, like keeping my romantic life separate from my work. Some people can do things with grace and others (like me) would never be able to pull that off without some weirdness, embarrassment, or messiness.

Remember in your travels, that there are always alternative solutions to creating the life you want.

Mary Lorenz is a special contributor to CareerBuilder.com., Is It OK to Flirt at Work?, <http://jobs.aol.com/article/?id=20060124162609990007>