

The world is your oyster

Question:

I have been an RN for 9 years...always worked full-time. Had to resign my position to care for my Father who passed away with me at home.

I took care of him for 2 years...I worked 6 months out of those 2 years as a camp nurse for handicapped folks. Recently, I applied for a position as a traveler, I was denied after explaining the lapse in work. The recruiter stated I needed at least 8 months of continuous nursing work. I am stunned to think because I took care of a parent until they died has put a damper on my nursing career. Can you offer any suggestions? I worked steadily as a nurse until this event. I was just being honest.

Reply:

Sorry to hear about the loss of your Father. I am sure that must have been one of the most difficult things you have ever done. Being denied as a traveler must have just opened a fresh wound.

Rest assured that the company's insistence on your having at least 8 months recent experience is universal to all nurses. These standards are set by hospitals that want to know they are getting someone to work at their facility that is recently qualified. The hospitals feel that they are already at a disadvantage not meeting the nurses before they are hired or checking their references for that matter. They leave it up to the companies to screen the potential nurses. All they know about you is what is on your resume and what they can get from a short conversation with you on the phone. Knowing that a nurse has at least 8 months recent experience or more helps them feel a bit safer in making their decisions regarding candidates that are suggested to them. There has to be minimum standards in place. If you think about it, 8 months to a year still isn't very long.

On another note, traveling is a great way to keep your mind occupied and enjoy life again after going through such an emotional ordeal. You may have to grind and bear it for another 8 months at a facility near you, but then after that the world is your oyster. Traveling may be just what you need to get a jump start on living life to its fullest.

Nettie