

Dear Social Services,

You ruined my life.

It's not totally your fault, I take a little responsibility, but I blame you.

I've wasted 13 years of my life helping other people, and lost my own life in the process.

I am thankful that I was able to help, and I'm sure they appreciate it, but I don't.

Starting with the MY FAULT part: I could've gotten a Masters or PhD in Psychology and been eligible for more income. I didn't because I didn't want to go the clinical route and spend my time involved in and solving everyone else's problems.

I could've exited the field but that would require luck, different education or the right circumstances because degrees in Psych and Sociology are worthless in the real world, except to the schools we paid for them. Thankfully I earned a Math degree and have some time to use it for profit.

Let's go to the YOUR FAULT part.

The Social Services industry expects workers to put others first, to ignore oneself and to ignore the importance of income for the sake of those whom we serve.

The Social Service industry brainwashes and hypnotizes workers in to thinking that the world will be a better place if we sacrifice our time, goals, personal time, free time, vehicles, resources and concentration on behalf of others, for whom the social service providers receive good income.

The social service industry takes advantage of people who care about others, overworking them to the point of emotional exhaustion. The social service industry does MUCH good, but at the expense of it's workers.

It's like a sweatshop. It's like an athlete destroying his/her body for the sake of a win or a record. It's a disaster. The social service industry does not want to see workers succeed and advance at their own speed. You only want clients and customers to reach their potential. Everyone else (workers) are expected to live, think and progress AS ONE, even as that work-style stunts and delays worker progress.

The social service industry has high turnover due to people trying to save their own sanity and futures.

So, why not I? Why didn't I bail and why am I taking it out on you? I'm doing it because it's (been) time for me to move on. It's been time for me to evacuate.

I am a brilliant and creative man who should be making \$400,000 a year by now, but there's no room for people like me in social services. Had I gone in to business, I'd have become a millionaire 10 years ago.

I realize that I am going to be in social services even as an entrepreneur. I am going to save and improve lives but in a more creative and profitable way. I regret working in social services, I feel like I have wasted my life. **THERE! I VENTED. NOW WHAT?!**

Don't do this to anyone else. Don't ruin the lives of future workers. Don't withhold funds, don't lie about funds available to pay workers with. Don't stifle workers' futures. Don't expect more than you would expect of yourself. Don't over work people just because other people want or need help.

Don't sell people the dream about "*making a difference*" in other people's lives, knowing good and well workers' own lives are going to be miserable.

TELL THE TRUTH!

Tell the truth about how workers will watch their friends, family and classmates' salaries rise with regular raises, even merit-based raises over the years, while their own stay stagnant or close to it.

Tell the truth that work-life balance isn't a trend in social services.

Tell the truth that social service workers are expected to treat customers and clients like they are MORE important than we are, not like they are AS important as we are.

Tell the truth about the lack of room for growth in social service agencies.

Tell the truth that these jobs are often just good enough to be starter jobs, 1-3 year jobs.

HELP your workers KNOW how to move on beyond your reach, so they can reach their potential.

Maybe working in social services should be the new "draft". Maybe it should be like jury duty, in which everyone has to do it at some point, but it's not a permanent situation unless they insist on staying in the field. Maybe that would cancel a lot of social tensions, confusion and develop social solutions.

In the meantime, tell the truth about how social services, being feelings-based, are going to wear down workers as they are involved in emotional emergencies for their clients and customers every day. Explain how management and staff are usually operating on a "feelings before facts" basis, instead of the "facts before feelings" motto that they should be.

Explain how that negatively affects workers, work atmospheres and everything else.

PROMOTE THE THOUGHT "You can't put feelings in the bank." That's what I have to say to annoying people who try to convince me that I'm doing a good thing.

13 years of doing good things has gotten me nowhere but to the point of venting in this letter.

So, keep up the good work, but be fair to your current and future workers. Tell them the truth. I just did, in case you don't.