

LOOSE LIPS SINK SHIPS

Tonya was a talker from the moment she learned how. Her mouth ran faster than two speed racers headed toward the finish line. Her friends learned early on what not to say in her presence if they wanted to keep any secrets and what's worse, she had no filter. She lacked a sense of loyalty when it came to confidentiality. She didn't care, she felt it was her right to talk and say what she wanted, when she wanted to.

Donna: *"Excuse me, my name is Donna. I'm new here and I wanted to know who do I speak to about getting more information on the new AFT program in this unit?"*

Tonya: *"You should have gotten the folder when you first arrived. Marilyn, the Assistant Manager is the one that trains for that program, but she's been so busy trying to kiss Amanda's (Manager) behind ----anyway, the new tech that started too is still waiting to learn Marilyn's been slipping on her job and I'm so sick of it."*

Donna: *"okay well where is Marilyn's office?"*

Tonya: *"That second door on the right, but she's not in there. She's supposed to be down the hall training the new tech, but like I said she has other plans. Well, I guess I can help you for a minute until she gets back, but I'm so tired of doing her job. You can come over here and I'll try to help you."*

For a while Donna managed to ignore Tonya's complaints; especially since she had just gotten there and wanted to get to know everyone in the unit without prejudice, but Tonya's babbling just wouldn't stop. It was obvious she didn't care for Marylyn by the things she was saying, but it didn't stop there. She started talking about other people and their personal issues. Donna tried interrupting her a few times to get her back to showing her how the program, but that didn't really work.

Tonya didn't know that Donna wasn't just another new employee, she was brought in from the corporate office to replace Amanda, the manager who was moving away. No one knew at that time.

After continuously listening to Tonya complaining, gossiping and spilling confidential information about the agency's clientele for nearly two hours, Donna politely thanked Tonya for what she did manage to show her and left for lunch. When Marylyn returned to her post, Donna quietly went to her office and shared with her all the disgusting gossip Tonya's loose lips spilled out.

I'm sure you know what happened next..... yep, the next day Donna, the new manager instructed Marilyn to fire Tonya – end of the loose lips.

*When I was a kid, I'd run home from school to tell my Mom about what the other students had done and talked about and what I saw the teachers do. She would say to me softly yet firmly, **"sometimes you have to hear and don't hear; see and don't see."** For a while, I didn't understand what she meant until I was a little older.*

Confidentially, personally or in the work setting is an absolute must. It doesn't matter if you like or dislike the person or if to you they're a "pain in the neck." It doesn't matter if you've been exposed to their personal information. If you have then it should stop right there. In other words, **keep your mouth shut**. If you don't know how, then learn.

Loose lips are like poison when it falls on the wrong ears.

***Example:** If you pour poison around the roots of a plant or tree, it will absorb the liquid because it's made to absorb whatever it's given. Eventually, the plant/tree will lose its ability to thrive and probably die. If you disclosed the wrong information, too much information, half-truth, or confidential things it can destroy what a person has worked so hard to build, damage; a person's reputation and could possibly cause them to endure unnecessary attacks from others.*

■**James 3:8-10** -describes the tongue as **"fire"**. It also talks about how a tongue can be unmanageable (loose). An out of control tongue can tear down someone's self-confidence, sever relationships and cause irreplaceable damage. Do you really want that on you?

■**Romans 6:13** – explains how bitter words hurt others. If you don't know what to say about the person or cannot say anything good, then say nothing because at some point in your life, it's going to come back to bite you, one way or another

Use a basic principal in confidentiality and that is, **DON'T SHARE ANYTHING ABOUT ANYONE (negative), IF YOU DON'T WANT ANYONE SHARING THINGS ABOUT YOU.**

Be Your Best Always

Amy

(Blaise Pascal, Ben Franklin)

