



Senior Manager

Dear Jackie

I worked in a family-run business as a senior manager. I am feeling stressed out working in this company. Can I leave my job and start my own business? What kind of business can I go into?

Lily age 46 right-handed

Dear Lily

Because of your free independent spirit, it will be rather difficult for you to work in a family-owned business. For one, you will remain under the shadow of the owner and family members even though there is a clear-cut organizational chart drawn out for you.

The owner who is the main contributor to the business empire will not allow you to make your own decision when he listens to his own company staff, business partner and family members more than an outsider like you.

You are better off working with bosses who do not meddle or intervene in your daily work and who trust you and give you initiative to implement agreed-upon plans.

If the family-run business adopts a rather conservative and traditional approach, you will feel frustrated because your quick and agile mind could not see the company staying ahead of the curve and become innovative.

You will also feel unhappy that your idea and creativity have never been pursued or approved. This will again erode your credibility and authority as a senior manager in the company.

At the present moment, it is not the right time to leave, as I cannot pick up a strong sign in your hands that says you are leaving.

It could be due to the fact that you may not be able to get a better job than your present one. Or you do not want to rock your financial stability as your kids are schooling and you need to put food on the table. Somehow you are stuck in this present job.

Do not despair. Stay resilient and be patient. You have a sign in your hand that says that there will be an opportunity for you to make a major change in about 3 to 4 years down the road and have your own business.

Home based business is more suitable for you because in your hands your line is taking a step back. This could mean that you are no longer seen to be working in an office outside but operating from home.

Please run a business you truly enjoy and has some fun-filling elements or is related to entertainment.

You can look into converting part of your home if you have enough space to a dancing or music studio, baking, meal planning and catering, jewelry making, party planning, art lesson, cooking class, knitting and crocheting, cushion embroidering, gift basket catering, and day care or pet care, just to name a few.

Working at home will be the most ideal business for you to start off as you can save cost in rentals and spend time with the children and family.

Jackie