

His Move - You Lose -- Or NOT  
Tip Of the Week From WMPKG

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By JoAnn R. Hines The Chief People Packager

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Only about 30% of women make more than their husbands do, so when relocation happens chances are she is the one making the career adjustment. Consequently, if she's the one making the sacrifice what can HE do to help HER with the transition?

First, understand that next to a death in the family moving is considered one of the most stressful activities in a person's life. Advance planning can ease the way to a successful relocation and new opportunities for everyone. Look at moving as an adventure not a chore.

Did you know that a spouse moving with a spouse has actually been given a name, "The trailing spouse."

**trailing spouse** (TRAY.ling spows) *n.* In a relationship, the person who gives up their job in order to follow the other person to a new location where that person has found employment.

It gets worse. Consider this one: the "career interrupted partner." Makes you sound like a real winner, doesn't it? But don't let these appellations get you down or begin an identity crisis. These tips can make the move a breeze.

Understand what you are dealing with. This is the time to think about you and your future. Don't be bashful about where you are going in your career. Since you have to start over with a new opportunity, spend some time assessing your current career. Take a hard look at the reality of where you are and where you are going. Remember you are moving to make life better and it needs to be better for both partners. This is not the time to play second string.

Here are a few thoughts to consider about your career:

Is this what you really want to do? Can you make a successful transition to the new location? Will it be easy for you to find a job? Can your family survive on one income or are you going to have to work, whether you want to or not? Do you want to go back to school? Would you like to or are you considering starting your own business? The possibilities are endless. Only you have the answers and only you as a team can make the change.

Chances are you need a new job. Use a little preplanning strategy. Just because it isn't company policy doesn't mean you can't ask for it. Companies are desperate to get employees to relocate. They want to make you and subsequently your spouse willing to pick up and relocate. So here is a checklist.

From your partners company:

Check for relocation partner assistance programs as a benefit package.

If they don't here are a couple of things to ask for:

- Will they cover your expenses of job hunting and familiarization of the area prior to the move?
- Are there job opportunities available within the spouse's company for me?
- Will the company reimburse my salary or unemployment period?
- Will the company reimburse for my job search trips prior to the move?
- Will the company make referrals to recruiting firms and employment agencies for me?
- Will childcare expenses be reimbursed during my job search and relocation process?
- Will the company assist me with interviews?

From your own company:

See if the human resources department or your boss can refer you to similar companies in your new city.

- See if the company has satellite or affiliated branches that you could be transferred to.
- See if you could become a contract employee working from your new location.
- See if you can get reassigned to a position within the company where location doesn't matter.

If none of these work:

- Contact competitors. They may have a branch or looking to open a satellite office in your new city and you may be the right choice to make the plan happen.
- Let everyone you know that you are relocating and looking for employment.
- Get new personal business cards that tell people how to reach you and that you are looking for work.
- Hit the Internet with job searching.
- Contact large employers at the new city about opportunities.
- Get in touch with the new city Chamber of Commerce.
- If all of this is too daunting, you might consider a career counselor that can help advise you on your life changes.

Don't forget to ask you partner's company to pay for this too.

Regards,  
JoAnn  
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