

# Tips for Novices

*that is, workers who are new to the sex industry*

## **SAVE YOUR MONEY**

While the pleasure of material hoarding is ever-so-tasty and alluring, the wise sex worker saves for a rainy day. There is no job security in the sex industry, so don't fall into the trap of treating your job like an ATM. You too will get ill, burn out, get old and/or get fired some day. Be prepared for your inevitable, often unforeseeable departure from the sex business. Try to sock away enough cash to cover at least 6 months worth of living expenses. This is the one piece of advice that is most often ignored: **SAVE.** *(If you don't want a bank account, buy travellers cheques. Unlike cash, they're replaceable if lost.)*

## **KNOW YOUR BOUNDARIES**

Just because you are a sex worker does not mean you have to do every and any thing for money. If you find something distasteful, frightening, physically or psychically unsafe - don't do it. You don't have to stoop to doing things to make money. If you are pressured by your boss or co-workers to do something you don't want to do, either refuse or leave. Compromising your boundaries only leads to a stunted career and a mile-high pile of therapy bills. *(Work in different places until you find one you like, the field is wide open. Try on different hats to see which one fits best.)*

## **KNOW AND RESPECT YOUR WORK**

Get as comfortable with, and learn as much about, sex as you can. Ignorance does not reflect well upon you. (Read up: sex-related how-to manuals, psychology texts, personal histories, even Cosmo's tell-alls.)

## **RESPECT YOUR CUSTOMERS**

Unless a customer is terribly rude, there is no reason to cop an attitude with him or her. Both you and your customers get something valuable out of the transaction that takes place. It behoves you to honour the mutual exchange. (Say to yourself: I get money, the customer gets company. It is an even exchange.)

## **DEVELOP POSITIVE REALATIONSHIPS BOTH INSIDE & OUTSIDE OF WORK**

Face it, society does not smile upon sex workers. Take steps to ensure that you get the support and validation you need around your work. Surround yourself with people who are cool about what you do. If in relationships you have to keep a secret of your job and lie about who you are, leave. No one should live their life in the closet. Far too often sex workers stay in destructive relationships because they constantly receive the negative reinforcement that what they're doing is inherently wrong and therefore they're not worthy of support. The only think wrong with sex work is society's negative, hypocritical attitude towards it. You deserve as much support for your career choice as Mother Theresa does for hers. (If you don't lie about who you are in the beginning of a relationship, you don't have to undo the lie later.)

## **WORK SAFELY**

If someone offers you more money to put yourself at an unacceptable risk, don't take the bait. No amount of money is worth your health or your life. Yes, plenty of customers will pay you extra to do something risky - fucking or oral sex without a barrier etc., but their unsafe indulgence will most likely to be at your expense. No customer has ever stuck around to pay for an abortion or penicillin or a funeral. Be smart. Be safe. (Lube your orifices.)

*Taste of Latex*

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