



You Have Made a Mistake – What Should You Do?

“When something goes wrong, blame it on the guy who is not there.” This brings on an instant smile to your face – but everyone knows that neither is it as easy as that nor is this a feasible solution. What should you do when things go wrong? Especially, when it is because of your mistake?

1. **Resist and Totally Abstain from Taking the 'Wait And Watch' Stance** - In Godfather, there is a dialogue, 'Don Corleone insists that he is given bad news immediately.' This is quite deep if you look at it carefully. Your boss and/or management need to know immediately that something is off so they can work out strategies to minimize losses and embarrassment. Own up immediately; if possible with the suggestion of one or more remedial strategies.
2. **Do Not Pass The Blame to Someone or Something Else** - It takes a lot of strength of character to accept the blame for a serious mistake that comes with serious consequences. It might even hurt you initially; but in majority of the cases you earn the respect of both your seniors and juniors by "doing the right thing". In most cases, solutions will be found to minimize the fall out and you would come out as a dependable and mature person to have around.
3. **Work Hard to Find and Implement Solutions** - Do all in your power to find solution(s) to the problem created and work to redress it. It is your moral obligation to see that things are brought to normal and back on track.
4. **Explain the Circumstances that Lead to the Mistake** - Once the worst is over, let your bosses know how or why things went wrong. Ensure that they know that it would not be repeated. The explanation should not attempt to minimize the blame, but focus on factors that were ignored, misread or miscalculated. Keep it as objective as possible. Admit where you were wrong and at the same draw attention to the factors that should have acted as checks and balances to prevent the mess.
5. **Do Not Be Hard on Yourself** - If you are human and you are doing something, then there will be mistakes. Do not be hard on yourself. Keep this in mind, "You are never as good as they say when you win; and never as bad as they say when you lose." Forgive yourself and move on. Learn from your mistake and carry on. Failure, mistakes, and obstacles will always be there; keep going, for with every step forward you are closer to success.