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Working From Home - A True Story

I recently had the opportunity (necessity???) to work from home for the better part of a week. Unforeseen circumstances required that I stay home for those few days and not only was I determined to work full days, I was convinced I would be able to easily meet my billable hour expectations. I'll admit to a bit of wishful thinking, but should such a circumstances arise again I will be better prepared and have more reasonable expectations.

Let me preface my story by saying that in the past I have had plenty of opportunity to do project work from the comfort of my couch - document review, file organization, trial exhibit preparation, but have never tried to manage my cases remotely. In my current position I would be very comfortable spending several hours on a Saturday reviewing medical records or responding to a few emails while preparing dinner but after being away from the office for a few days, I was *excited* to go back, *really excited*.

Here is what I learned from my work from home experience.

The good:

Unlimited Netflix bingeing - Oh yeah, I watched a full season of a show I've been trying to get caught up on for months.
No commute – The time I spend on the way to the office became time spent actually working rather than just thinking about it. This alone saved me over two hours a day!
No dress code – Yes, as tempting as it was to stay in pajamas all day, I found it wise to get up and get motivated. While slacks and heels may not have been necessary, a good shower and some eyeliner helped to put me in the frame of mind for work.
Fewer distractions, *in theory* - While my co-workers, supervising attorneys and colleagues weren't able to knock on my door or so easily pick up the phone to dial me, I was still connected to the greatest distraction of all, email. Even so, I could learn to manage the distractions at home more easily than the exponentially multiplied distractions at the office.

The bad:

Expectations of others - My husband felt like it would not be too much trouble for me to put in a load of laundry or unload the dishwasher which made me feel like he was right. I had to remind him and myself that I was at work, no different than being *at work*.
Only one monitor - Yes, this situation is easily remedied, and if I were going to work from home on a regular basis dual monitors would be a necessity.
The slow speed of a remote server connection - No explanation necessary on this one. However, every time that lag presented itself, I thought I would just get up and pour another glass of ice water or just stretch my legs while waiting for documents to load or files to connect.
My dog just wanted to be petted - I'm an animal lover and my dog loves his people. He just needed his ears rubbed - a lot. He also wanted to be let out and back in - a lot.

I'm in no way convinced that working from home is undoable for me and I do believe the positive of telecommuting outweighs the negative. For me, I would have to plan, prepare and consider the negative to do it on a full time basis, or even on a basis more often than a day or two a week.

By Tanya Patterson

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Latest Telecommuting Statistics:

<http://globalworkplaceanalytics.com/telecommuting-statistics>

14 Tips for Working From Home:

<http://www.careerealism.com/tips-working-from-home/>

Members, we would love to hear from you!

Share Your Work From Home Tips and Troubles

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