

HOW TO FIRE **CHEAT SHEET**

THE KEY DIAGNOSTIC QUESTION: If I could do it all over again, knowing what I know now, would I enthusiastically rehire this person?

FIRING WITH **MINIMUM PAIN AND DRAMA**

1. Assess each person's performance and plot them on the Star Chart
2. Decide if the person needs a critical 'reality' conversation or if you need to fire them
3. Determine to close the reality gap by taking action to overcome your fear

STEPS TO **FIRING WELL**

1. Make a transition plan

- ✓ Decide who will replace the person
- ✓ Decide how their work will be divided up
- ✓ Think through how to protect the organization

3. Prepare in detail for the interview

- ✓ Have your remarks in writing to guide the conversation
- ✓ Get right to the point
- ✓ Announce your news immediately
- ✓ Don't say, "This is for the best", "I understand how you're feeling", or "If you had only..."
- ✓ Be prepared for each of the 6 possible responses: denial, shock, negotiation, debate, anger or sadness
- ✓ Take care of the details: pay, benefits, unused vacation time, vacation pay, severance arrangements, return of company property, ongoing projects, good byes to co-workers
- ✓ Say thank you and wish them well

2. Choose the time and setting

- ✓ Fire near the beginning of the week and at the end of the day
- ✓ Avoid holidays, and other days involving other significant negative life events
- ✓ Ensure that you have privacy
- ✓ Provide for a quick face-saving exit route
- ✓ Always have a witness present

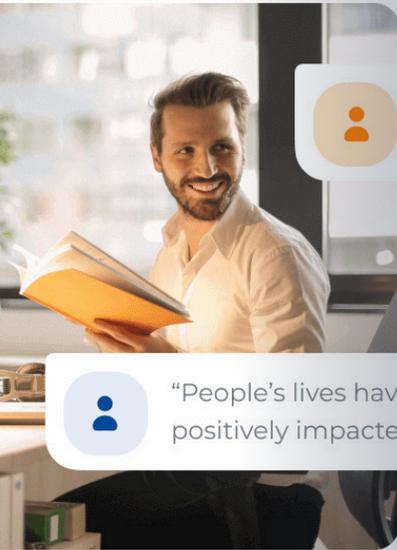
4. Communicate with the rest of the team

- ✓ Never speak badly about the person
- ✓ State that they are no longer with the company
- ✓ Thank them for their contribution
- ✓ Wish them the very best in the future; always take the high road

MASTER **TIPS**

- ✓ Take no more than 5-8 minutes for the interview
- ✓ The less you say, the better
- ✓ Be generous and kind
- ✓ Be thoroughly prepared to respond as needed

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- ✓ Objectively assessing your team
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