

## Case No. 18

### A Woman Stalked by a Former Employer on the Pretext of Debt

Ms. Yoshida, 27, started working part-time at a small insurance agency. Six months later, she was promoted to full-time. Before the promotion, she slept with her boss, the president of the agency. She thought it was just one-night stand, as was often the case with alcohol.

#### Help Never Comes Without a Price

As a part-time worker, Ms. Yoshida got less than ¥100,000 a month. The promotion brought her salary up to ¥250,000 a month, and she used this opportunity to leave parents' home. Because the initial cost for renting a room could be large, the president kindly lent her ¥500,000.

Since then, he started to call and text her every night for date. Ms. Yoshida almost forgot about the night before, however the president considered her an intimate partner. He always brought her as an assistant to meetings and conferences, and Ms. Yoshida could do nothing but follow her boss's order.

#### Stalking Fact: 50% of Current or Former Intimates Turn Stalkers

A person you happen to sleep with just once could become a stalker. In Ms. Yoshida's case, the president kept contacting her no matter how many times she refused him. She was asked to be like a personal attendant of the president, and never allowed to work as a planning or sales staff despite of her request. When she complained about this, the president coldly said "Then will you quit your job? In any case, you need to repay me first".

Ms. Yoshida signed an IOU and was willing to repay on a regular basis since she couldn't pay in a lump sum. When she thought she's had enough of sexual harassment by the president, she quit her job. However, things even got worse.

#### Getting Rid of a Stalker

"Give me the money back!" Ms. Yoshida's former boss came to her door and yelled almost every night. One day, she felt scared and called the police, but

she was only disappointed to find out that the police was easily persuaded by the man. He justified himself saying that Ms. Yoshida has been behind on loan payment, so he only came to inform her. He might have realized that debt collecting could be a good reason to call and follow her. Ms. Yoshida reluctantly went out with him feeling she had no other choice.

When Ms. Yoshida came for help, Kakekomidera advised her to send a content-certified mail to the man. Getting a court order might be helpful but she couldn't afford a lawyer. To defend herself, she wrote out a document and sent it to the former boss in care of the company. The document said: "I will repay the debt every month. I ask you not to come to my home. If you do come, I will take a legal action."

Debt collecting and stalking are two different things and stalking is a crime. You can take legal actions to protect yourself from stalkers.

### Tips from Gen

Evidence collection is vital to prove the stalking. Write down the time, date, place and details of the incident. The police may downplay the problem until they have proof. Keep e-mails, phone messages and letters so that the police can file a report. Ask your friends or witnesses to accompany you when contacting the police. In case you get too emotional to tell the story, you may find it helpful to have someone with you who can explain objectively to the police. Also, don't forget to bring all the evidence you have collected.

Lastly, make sure you receive the officer's name card. If anything happens, try to contact the same officer. It is easiest if you can talk to the officer who is familiar with you and the case.