



## Fired ... by text message?

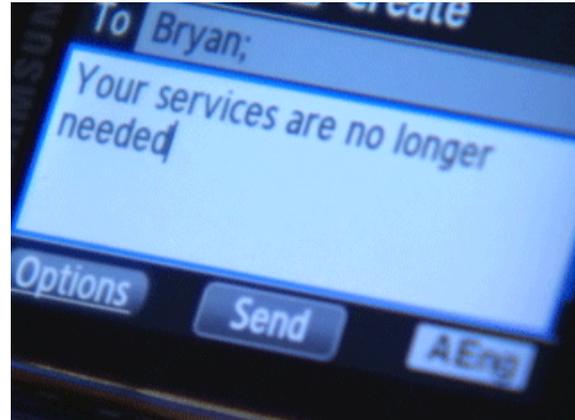
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by [Nerissa Prest](#)

TAMPA - Melissa Wright is still a little bent out of shape over the last message she got from her old boss.

Wright, a single mother of two, says she got fired by text message.

No notice, no severance, just a message.



"I received a text message at 6 in the morning that said, 'Do not enter the building, do not access any computers, your services are no longer needed,'" Wright explained. "That's not very professional. I was a little blown away because just the previous night there was an incident that happened and I was talking to my boss actually via text message back and forth and he told me pretty much everything was fine and okay."

When she tried to contact her boss by phone to talk about it, he wouldn't answer. "He did not pick up the phone," Wright said. "I left a message. I requested that he meet with me to discuss it, then two minutes later I get another text message that said 'No, there's nothing to discuss' and that was it."

**NetLingo** online reports more than 79 million people are text messaging regularly and most of it is for business use. It brings up the issue of professionalism in the information age. E-mail, texts, and social media are often the preferred method of communication in this day and age.

Technically, there is no law that says an employee can't be fired that way.

According to the Emily Post website on social and business etiquette, text messaging is strictly a "casual affair that's usually used as a prelude to a call." The website advises that "If you have something important to say, say it over the phone."

Wright feels her job was important and that her termination deserved a face-to-face meeting. Luckily, she ended up finding a new job.

"It's been a great thing for me, actually," she said. Wright adds that she doesn't plan on texting with her boss ... ever.

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