

UNFAIR DISMISSAL AND OTHER PROTECTIONS IF YOUR EMPLOYMENT ENDS

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EXT. CLEANING STORAGE AREA - DAY

JULIA is packing up her mop and broom as her boss, TONY, walks past.

TONY
Good job today Julz.

JULIA
Thank you.

TONY
See you tomorrow.

JULIA
Um... before you go. I would like to change to the night shift. Would that be possible?

TONY
(displeased)
No, Julz, that is not possible. It's too much work to change the shift and I can't be bothered.

JULIA
But it wouldn't require that much work. I've already found somebody to swap with.

TONY
Listen, if you can't work your shift, find another job.

JULIA looks despondently at the floor.

JULIA
But my son's about to start school and I need to be able to go and pick him up.

TONY
(displeased)
Fine. I will change the shift.
(storming out)
Trouble maker, you are!

EXT. CLEANING STORAGE AREA - THE NEXT DAY

JULIA is again packing up after a shift. TONY storms in.

TONY
Where are the chemicals that I put here yesterday?

JULIA

I don't know... I haven't seen them.

TONY

Are you stealing from me?

JULIA

What? No! Of course not!

TONY

Where are they then? First you demand to change shift, now you're stealing. You're fired!

Devastated, JULIA removes her cleaning clothes and leaves. TONY storms out.

EXT. PUBLIC GARDEN - LATER THAT WEEK

JULIA is chatting with her friend JANE over a coffee in a public garden space.

JULIA

And then he just fired me on the spot.

JANE

Without investigating the theft?! That's outrageous.

JULIA

There was no theft. He was just trying to find an excuse because I asked to change to the night shift.

JANE

That is so unfair. He can't do that. It's against the law.

JULIA

Really?

JANE

Yeah! You can't fire somebody for asking to change their shift. And he can't just fire you for theft without looking into it first.

JULIA

(nodding)
Okay...

JANE

You should speak to a community legal centre, like JobWatch.

(MORE)

JANE (CONT'D)

They're free and confidential and they handle this stuff all the time. But you should call them quickly, because some claims may have time limits.

JULIA nods, looking hopeful for the first time.