

## Partner or Employee?

*This year I fell in love with a man who is 24 years my senior and has plenty of money. After a work injury, I am ready to let go of my career and do more art and creative work. He offered me a job to move where he lives so I can earn income and sustain myself. I want to be his partner not employee, and I am afraid money could come between us. I've been a single mother with no financial help for many years. I'm ashamed to admit that I'd love to be taken care of. But I'm afraid we'll lose our equivalence if he becomes my boss.*

Everybody has a mixed bag of beliefs and strategies around money. Blending these dynamics in romance, especially by working together, is ripe for challenge. As you navigate this, there will be plentiful opportunities to either heal and progress or defend and regress.

It is totally understandable to want relief from being the sole provider for your family, but you must get very clear about your motivations regarding romance versus financial security. How do you feel about the age difference? Are you willing to potentially become dependent on him and perhaps in time, the other way around?

A foundation of every healthy relationship is honest, courageous and even difficult communication. Consciously prepare to ask tough questions while remaining truly open to hear his honest answers. Does he want you as an employee, a romantic partner or both? If you decide not to work for him, does he still want you to move? If your children are still with you, will he provide for them as well?

No matter how strongly you long to be taken care of, do not make this decision until you are in a place of calm certainty. Resist the temptation to give your power away where it does not belong.

Step back. Breathe. Pray. Go slow before going fast. Love is the energy of all creation. Exploring its possibilities and magic is your divine right. Trust that Spirit is guiding you both into new, beautiful territory — no matter what. ❀



**STEF SWINK, RScP**, has been a practitioner since 1999. As a protégé and assistant to Louise Hay, she was a frequent ghostwriter for the “Dear Louise” column. Through speaking, spiritual counseling and workshops, she inspires others to create fulfilling lives they love. Connect with her online at [StefSwink.com/Ask-Stef-Submission](http://StefSwink.com/Ask-Stef-Submission).