

## Out of the Office

28/05/09

From: d.harber@safeharbercounselling.co.uk

To: admin@safeharbercounselling.co.uk

Hi Claire

I'll be out of the office for a few days – hold the fort, will you? According to my diary you'll have to put off the Tenbys (who are practically falling back into each others' arms already) and the Wilkinsons (who still owe me for the first three sessions, so see if you can get them to cough up). No e-mails, please – if it's urgent, you can get me on the mobile.

Ta

D.

01/06/09

From: d.harber@safeharbercounselling.co.uk

To: gdm@morrisonssolicitors.co.uk

Dear George

What a surprise to hear from you this morning. I'd told Claire I wasn't to be disturbed, but I suppose she meant well.

Yes, I have been dealing with Mr and Mrs Scully. Their case was a typical one – should never have got married in the first place in my opinion. Claire has records of the advice I gave. This included sensitivity analysis and my own bonding techniques, which always work well. I must say that Mr Scully – Nick, by name – embraced my methods fully. Mrs Scully failed to attend our last session, which I'm afraid was typical of her rather sceptical attitude to counselling of any description. I have no idea where Mr Scully could be.

Regards

D.

01/06/09

From: d.harber@safeharbercounselling.co.uk

To: mjbradley@norfolk.police.uk

Dear Sergeant Bradley

I can only re-iterate what I told you on the phone. I am sorry that Mr Scully is missing, but I'm afraid I don't know where he is.

Yours sincerely

D. Harber

02/06/09

From: d.harber@safeharbercounselling.co.uk

To: gdm@morrisonssolicitors.co.uk

Dear George

How clever of you to trace me to Amsterdam! I did come over here on holiday, hoping for a bit of peace and quiet, but I suppose it wasn't to be.

Yes, now you mention it, I did have a coffee with Mr Scully. And I think it was Costa's that we went to, so we could well have been seen there. It was for our last appointment – the one Mrs Scully neglected to attend. Claire will have it in the book. Nick Scully was feeling uncertain and vulnerable, and I'm not surprised, given the way his wife was critical of him at every opportunity. It was obvious that she'd never appreciated her husband, and when I told her this, she became very critical. "Mumbo-jumbo" I think was the phrase she used. Imagine! So, yes – Nick and I held our last session in a coffee-shop. You can pass that on to the police if you want.

Thanks, as always, for your keen interest in my welfare.

D.

02/06/09

From: d.harber@safeharbercounselling.co.uk

To: flightbookings@rtk.co.nl

Dear Sirs

I refer to the booking I made for a flight to Melbourne on 14th, for two adults, reference EDG76F. Is there any chance I could bring this forward by a week?

Much obliged.

03/06/09

From: d.harber@safeharbercounselling.co.uk

To: admin@safeharbercounselling.co.uk

My Dear Claire

I hope you were only joking when you e-mailed to say you were resigning.

Mrs Scully was wrong to berate you the way she did. At Safe Harbers we've had very few dissatisfied customers, as I'm sure you'll agree. She is something of an exception - very disturbed in my opinion. And don't worry about the Wedgwood vase - I'm only glad it missed you. Did you hear what Mrs Scully said about my bonding techniques? Very rude. And where she can have got the idea from, that I know anything about Nick's whereabouts, is beyond me.

I'm sorry I haven't been able to come back and clear things up, but my little holiday has turned into a convalescence. I went to one of the nice coffee shops they have here - lots of herbs growing in the windows - and I think something has disagreed with me. It was my friend's suggestion.

I'm also sorry to hear about the police questioning you. I hope they were kind. Some of them can be quite tough, I know. Perhaps I should recommend they use the Harber Bonding method.

But you've always been a good worker, Claire. I'll buy you a drink when I get back, and we'll laugh over all of this, I'm sure.

Yours,

D.

03/06/09

From: d.harber@safeharbercounselling.co.uk

To: w.legge@hmcb.co.uk

Dear Mr Legge

I wonder if I could trouble you for a further small extension to my credit limit. I'm in Europe at the moment, negotiating to open a Safe Harbers office in Amsterdam. Another £10k should cover it.

Many thanks

D.Harber

04/06/09

From: d.harber@safeharbercounselling.co.uk

To: gdm@morrisonssolicitors.co.uk

Dear George

Mrs Scully can sue me if she likes. She's got no evidence that I ran off with her husband. But if Nick Scully *had* run away, would you blame him?

I'll check about the insurance.

D.

04/06/09

From: d.harber@safeharbercounselling.co.uk

To: admin@safeharbercounselling.co.uk

Claire,

Same to you. I hope no other employer has the bad luck to take you on.

D.

04/06/09

From: d.harber@safeharbercounselling.co.uk

To: gdm@morrisonssolicitors.co.uk

Dear George

Not sure how to put this. Checked up with the insurance people, and they say the policy's lapsed. I'll sort it out when I get back, of course. It's difficult being indisposed like this, when all's going pear-shaped at home, but I think I'm on the mend. Hope to fly back on Monday 8th.

No, I'm afraid you won't be able to raise anyone at the office. That little minx, Claire, has done a bunk. Would you believe it! Just when I need a steady hand on the tiller. She always was slapdash and slovenly. Come to think of it, it's probably her fault that the policy's lapsed.

Thanks for letting me know your bill's on the way. I'll deal with it as soon as I get back.

Many thanks,

Your dear friend

D.

04/06/09

From: d.harber@safeharbercounselling.co.uk

To: flightbookings@rtk.co.nl

Dear Sirs

Booking ref. EDG76F.

I confirm the change to the above, for two adults on flight to Melbourne, now on Sunday 7th.

Many thanks

D.Harber

04/06/09

From: d.harber@safeharbercounselling.co.uk

To: w.legge@hmcb.co.uk

Dear Mr Legge

May I beg you to reconsider your refusal to extend my credit limit. I fully appreciate that you normally require to discuss these matters in advance, but it really is crucial to my present negotiations that the funds become available. I will certainly bring all the necessary documentation for your scrutiny. I return to the UK on Monday 8th, and will call in the next day.

Trusting that this is sufficient

Your loyal customer

D.Harber

05/06/09

From: d.harber@safeharbercounselling.co.uk

To: gdm@morrisonssolicitors.co.uk

Dear George

So that woman's been to see you, too? I hope you agree with my opinion that Mrs Scully is criminally insane. I hope she didn't assault you.

As for her account of our therapy sessions, I can only assure you that I did my very best to involve her. I explained thoroughly that marriage guidance is only as good as what you bring to it, and that she must really desire to resolve things. I concede that, at first, she did make all the right noises, and take part in our exercises. But her assertion that I showed a preference for Nick, and indeed flirted with him, is of course without foundation. Flirtation with clients is a definite no-no in counselling. One has to be especially careful with male clients, naturally. Mrs Scully's claims are merely a measure of how deep her own problems go.

I hope you sent her away with a large flea in each ear.

See you next week

Yours

D.

05/06/09

From: d.harber@safeharbercounselling.co.uk

To: book@happytaxi.co.nl

Confirm taxi to take two plus luggage to Schiphol on Sunday 7th.

D.Harber

08/06/09

From: d.harber@safeharbercounselling.co.uk

To: gdm@morrisonssolicitors.co.uk

Dear George

My dear friend, I hope you are well. I must say it gives me great pleasure to think of the times we've helped each other out over the years. I particularly remember lending you a fiver so you wouldn't get beaten up at school, and I hope you remember it too. Because just now I'm in need of a bit of help myself. It was quite embarrassing really. Bags all packed, waiting for the taxi to the airport, when there was a ring on the bell. Opened the door and found three people waiting there: one seemed to be a Dutch police officer, but the man in the plain clothes spoke English. I didn't really register what he was saying, though, because the third person was Mrs Scully and she was hitting me. I began to lose interest just then, but I believe the policemen were trying to restrain her. Unfortunately, I'd stooped down to get a tissue, to stanch the blood, and somehow we all landed in a heap with the policemen on top of me. The British detective began to remark on the smell of the flat - claiming he could smell cannabis, which anyway isn't an offence over here - when he was interrupted by screeches coming from the bedroom. The wily Mrs Scully had correctly guessed that her husband Nick was hiding in the wardrobe, and she was now engaged breaking various fragile objects over his head. Which was a shame because, as I'm sure you've guessed by now, I confess I have developed rather a soft spot for him.

The policeman says I must hurry up. I hope you'll be able to come over and sort this out for me at once.

Oh, and by the way - a strange thing has happened. Imagine my surprise on being told that the flight reservation that I had in my coat was not for London, as I had thought, but Melbourne! The staff at RTK really are dreadful.

Hope to see you soon

D.

09/06/09

From: d.harber@safeharbercounselling.co.uk

To: gdm@morrisonssolicitors.co.uk

George

I fully understood your last. I can't believe you'd let a fellow down after all these years. Still, that's what you get for loyalty, I suppose.

And I think you'd made a mistake with the amount that woman's trying to claim from me. You must have added another zero to the pounds column by mistake.

If I finish up in prison, my "old friend", do me a favour. Don't visit.

Yours,

Derek