

Happy February! You probably know that Part-Time Pros is a certified woman owned business where I hold the majority ownership. What you may not know is that I have an amazing man who owns the remaining 49%. That man is my husband, Brett. He is my friend, my playmate, my confidant, my shoulder to cry on and an incredible father to our 2 year old daughter. While I seem to be the “Face” of Part-Time Pros I need to make it very clear to all that I could not run Part-Time Pros without his assistance and support.

Given it is February, the month of love, I felt compelled to pay homage to my partner Brett for all he does. For those of you who work with your spouse here are a few simple tips that have served us well and perhaps may serve you well.

### **Three Most Important Tips for Working with Your Spouse**

1. **Be Nice**: Be flexible in your ideas and ways, and expect to have to compromise more than you would with an unrelated co-worker. Treat your spouse with the same (or higher) level of courtesy and respect, as you would anyone else you worked with.
2. **Avoid Arguments With One Simple Act**: Listen. Even if you disagree with your spouse’s ideas, always let him finish. If you cut him/her short, or are quick to criticize, you are likely to start a shouting match.
3. **Set Aside Business-Free Time**: It is impossible to “leave it at the office”, just being honest, our life is our business and our family! But you still need to spend time enjoying being a couple. It is important to remember that you are together for many reasons; not just for a business.

Have “no business talk at dinner” certain nights of the week, or even better, make “dates” with your spouse once a week. I will be the first to admit this is easier said than done but I can’t be faulted for not setting goals!

Only go into business with your husband if it is because you have planned to do so and you both want to work together. If you need someone to help you save your business, hire a business consultant or find a mentor. Let your husband be your “knight in shining armour” for other reasons that don’t involve your business.

Happy Valentines! Carey