What The Biggest Misconception That Candidates Have About Recruiters

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What's the biggest misconception that candidates have about recruiters?

We can't seem to get away from this idea that recruiters represent candidates. People think we're employment agencies, but we don't represent candidates who are looking. We're part of the management consulting profession, and we're retained by companies as consultants to find candidates. We advise companies on how to strengthen themselves by finding the right people. You should send a résumé to an executive recruiter and wait for a phone call. Once you have conducted your research and you have found a recruiter that you want to work with, you will need to figure out how to communicate with them. Some recruiters don't expect or want phone calls and will contact you. Others do like you to check in periodically, but when will being enthusiastic turn into being annoying?

Remember, you will want to be in contact with the recruiter when you have new information about yourself, keeping him up-to-speed on new information—such as new contact information, updates to your résumé such as job changes or new accomplishments. You should also establish with the executive recruiter what kind of information they are interested in and what manner of communication is appropriate.

Do they work best by receiving information by phone, fax, e-mail? How often do they want to hear from you? Some executive recruiters like to be informed of all sorts of information about an industry that may not be related directly to a specific job candidate or job opening.