

Insensitivity

The insensitive person feels little concern for others. Recently I took a friend of mine to the doctor, for an examination which his family was concerned about, and which found a suspicious and concerning lump on my friend's neck. When I drove Joe home, in a pretty serious mood, we were met by his thirty year old daughter, who let us in the front door. All she could talk about was the awkward work-schedule she'd been given at the shop, and how pissed off she was. She seemed to have forgotten about her Dad's problem. She was insensitive to her dad's situation, and asked him nothing about himself.

Examples

1 Daycare

I live in the residential section of a small Midwestern town. My neighbors are, like me, middle class and quiet, careful about community relations, and inclined to look out for one another. Recently, however, a neighbor in the next block rented out a small house he owned, adjacent to his own, to a single Mom. She, it turned out, ran a day care. Suddenly there was a deluge of small kids on bicycles and tricycles surging up and down our street. The intrusion did not fit in this neighborhood. We in our neighborhood are not snooty, nor racist, nor filthy rich—just quiet; and the hordes of children didn't belong here. Furthermore we were afraid the kids would get run over. The woman committed no crime, and yet the least she could have done was to control and discipline her charges. She was insensitive. Before long she left.

2 Withdrawn account

A few years ago I had a small brokerage account. At a certain point in his business with me, my broker decided to turn over his smaller accounts (like mine) to a local colleague who lives in my town, but whom I did not know. Without asking me, my personal broker sent my funds and documentation to the local colleague, who would then be able to enroll me as one of his clients. It was insensitive of my broker to assume that I would be happy to have my funds transferred to the local colleague, whom I did not know. I was angry, and reminded my broker that he had transferred my funds, and shifted my account, to another broker—without even asking my permission. I felt I had been ignored in the transaction. As a result of this insensitivity I withdrew my account altogether and transferred it to another company.