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Friendships in the workplace are very beneficial between co-workers, but I don't think it is okay for employees to befriend their managers. Relationships in the workplace are very delicate especially for the case of the managers and employees. We cannot rule out that managers are people with feelings just like any other person, but maintenance of professionalism is key. Even more is that, interactions happen naturally due to the amount of time they get to spend together or when junior staff gets promoted. However, the supervisors should be keen to draw the line between casual/intimate friendships and supervisory relationships.

Favoritism is an issue that pops up when close relationships between the management and employees are forged. Other employees will always find a reason to point out bias when the "friend" is involved, even when the manager feels that he was neutral. In line with that, it is natural that when people get emotionally attached to others, they are unconsciously influenced to make decisions favoring the close employee (Rashtian 290).

Not far from this is the fact that the managers will have unrealistic expectations from their close employee. Of course, when you are friends with someone, you expect them to give you their best and there practically no room for disappointment. On the other hand, the employee may want unprofessional favors from you since you are in a position of power and not meeting these demands may ruin the friendship and disrupt the job.

From experience, I have seen the management having problems assessing and correcting the close employees. This is part of the supervisor's job and it is critical for every organization to succeed. In this scenario, the manager was to issue disciplinary action against the co-worker due to serious misbehavior. The manager was directed to fire the "friend", and it appeared to be the most challenging job. The friendship between the manager and the employee was bound to end if he went ahead and fired them.

Work cited

Rashtian, Hootan, et al. "To befriend or not? a model of friend request acceptance on facebook." *Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS)*. 2014.