

GET THE JOB

When a Job Offer Is Put on Hold

How to Follow Up Without Overstepping or Losing Hope

You've interviewed, sent your thank-you note and maybe even discussed salary. Then comes the curveball: the company tells you the offer is on hold. Whether it's due to internal delays, budget reviews or shifting priorities, waiting in limbo can feel frustrating. But a thoughtful response can help you stay in the running — and keep your options open.

RESPOND WITH PROFESSIONALISM

First, take a breath. A delayed offer isn't the same as a rejection. It may have nothing to do with you as a candidate. Companies often pause hiring for reasons like reorganization, budgeting or leadership changes.

When the employer informs you of the delay, thank them for the update and express continued interest in the role. You might say:

"I appreciate you letting me know. I remain very interested in the position and look forward to hearing when things move forward."

This kind of reply reinforces your professionalism and keeps the conversation open.



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CHECK IN — BUT DON'T CROWD

If a few weeks pass with no update, it's appropriate to check in. A brief, polite message shows continued interest and keeps you on their radar without adding pressure.

Aim for a tone that's friendly and respectful of their timeline. Something like:

"Just checking in to see if there are any updates on the role we discussed. I'm still very enthusiastic about the opportunity and happy to provide anything else you might need."

Avoid repeated follow-ups too close together. If they said they'd reach out in two weeks, wait until that time has passed before checking in.

KEEP YOUR SEARCH GOING

It's natural to pin your hopes on an offer that feels close — but don't pause your job hunt while you wait. Delays can stretch on longer than expected, and sometimes roles are quietly dropped altogether.

By continuing your search, you stay active, expand your

options and avoid the pressure of waiting on a single outcome. If the offer comes through later, you'll be in a stronger position to make a clear-eyed choice.

When handled with professionalism and patience, a delayed offer doesn't have to derail your search — it can still lead to a promising next step.