



Sexual Harassment Education and Training

Training Checklist

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination that violates Title 5. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when this conduct explicitly or implicitly affects an individual's employment, unreasonably interferes with an individual's work performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

Sexual harassment can occur in a variety of circumstances, including but not limited to the following:

- The victim as well as the harasser may be a woman or a man. The victim does not have to be of the opposite sex.
- The harasser can be the victim's supervisor, an agent of the employer, a supervisor in another area, a co-worker, or a non-employee.
- The victim does not have to be the person harassed but could be anyone affected by the offensive conduct.
- Unlawful sexual harassment may occur without economic injury to or discharge of the victim.
- The harasser's conduct must be unwelcome.

Prevention is the best tool to eliminate sexual harassment in the workplace. Employers are encouraged to take steps necessary to prevent sexual harassment from occurring. They should clearly communicate to employees that sexual harassment will not be tolerated. They can do so by providing sexual harassment training to their employees and by establishing an effective complaint or grievance process and taking immediate and appropriate action when an employee complains.

It is also unlawful to retaliate against an individual for opposing employment practices that discriminate based on sex or for filing a discrimination charge, testifying, or participating in any way in an investigation, proceeding, or litigation under Title 5.

Additional Resources:

Office of Attorney General's Guidance:

http://www.maine.gov/ag/about/harrassment_policy.html

Maine Human Rights Commission Guidance:

http://www.maine.gov/mhrc/guidance/sexual_harrassment.htm

Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Guidance:

<https://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/publications/upload/fs-sex.pdf>

Federal Statutes:

<https://www.eeoc.gov/laws/statutes/titlevii.cfm>

State of Maine Statutes:

<http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/statutes/5/title5sec4553.html>

Title 26 M.R.S.A. §807 requires employers with 15 or more employees in the workplace to conduct an education and training program for all new employees within one year of commencement of employment that includes a written notice of the illegality of sexual harassment; the definition of sexual harassment under state law; a description of sexual harassment, utilizing examples; the internal complaint process available to the employee; the legal recourse and complaint process available through the Maine Human Rights Commission; directions on how to contact the Commission; and the protection against retaliation as provided pursuant to Title 5, section 4553, subsection 10, paragraph D. Employers shall conduct additional training for supervisory and managerial employees within one year of commencement of employment that includes, at a minimum, the specific responsibilities of supervisory and managerial employees and methods that these employees must take to ensure immediate and appropriate corrective action in addressing sexual harassment complaints.

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