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LANDEGGER BARON LAW GROUP, ALC

Exclusively Representing Employers

"Prevent Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace"

September, 2017

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The attached material must not be considered legal advice. The sample forms and policies are for educational purposes only. We strongly recommend that you consult with legal counsel before adopting or implementing any of the attached sample forms and policies to avoid potential liability

Table of Contents

California Law Prohibits Workplace Discrimination and Harassment	1-2
Employment Discrimination Based on Disability	3-4
Pregnancy Leave	5-6
Your Rights and Obligations as a Pregnant Employee	7-8
Family Care Medical Leave & Pregnancy Disability Leave.....	9
Transgender Rights in the Workplace	10
Sexual Harassment	11-12
Employee Relations Policy with Acknowledgement	13-14
California DFEH - Employment Complaint Flowchart	15
Discrimination Allegation/Event Reporting Form	16-20



CALIFORNIA LAW PROHIBITS WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING (DFEH) ENFORCES LAWS THAT PROTECT YOU FROM ILLEGAL DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT IN EMPLOYMENT BASED ON YOUR ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED:

- ANCESTRY
- AGE (40 and above)
- COLOR
- DISABILITY (physical and mental, including HIV and AIDS)
- GENETIC INFORMATION
- GENDER IDENTITY, GENDER EXPRESSION
- MARITAL STATUS
- MEDICAL CONDITION (genetic characteristics, cancer or a record or history of cancer)
- MILITARY OR VETERAN STATUS
- NATIONAL ORIGIN (includes language use and possession of a driver's license issued to persons unable to prove their presence in the United States is authorized under federal law)
- RACE
- RELIGION (includes religious dress and grooming practices)
- SEX/GENDER (includes pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and/or related medical conditions)
- SEXUAL ORIENTATION

THE CALIFORNIA FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING ACT (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 12900 THROUGH 12996) AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS (CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2, SECTIONS 11000 THROUGH 11141):

- ① Prohibit harassment of employees, applicants, unpaid interns, volunteers, and independent contractors by any persons and require employers to take all reasonable steps to prevent harassment. This includes a prohibition against sexual harassment, gender harassment, harassment based on pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and/or related medical conditions, as well as harassment based on all other characteristics listed above.
- ② Require that all employers provide information to each of their employees on the nature, illegality, and legal remedies that apply to sexual harassment. Employers may either develop their own publications, which must meet standards set forth in California Government Code section 12950, or use a brochure from DFEH.
- ③ Require employers with 50 or more employees and all public entities to provide sexual harassment and abusive conduct prevention training for all supervisors.
- ④ Prohibit employers from limiting or prohibiting the use of any language in any workplace unless justified by business necessity. The employer must notify employees of the language restriction and consequences for violation. Also prohibits employers from discriminating against an applicant or employee because they possess a driver's license issued to a person who is unable to prove that their presence in the United States is authorized under federal law.
- ⑤ Require employers to reasonably accommodate an employee, unpaid intern, or job applicant's religious beliefs and practices, including the wearing or carrying of religious clothing, jewelry or artifacts, and hair styles, facial hair, or body hair, which are part of an individual's observance of their religious beliefs.
- ⑥ Require employers to reasonably accommodate employees or job applicants with disabilities to enable them to perform the essential functions of a job.

- ⑦ Permit job applicants, unpaid interns, volunteers, and employees to file complaints with DFEH against an employer, employment agency, or labor union that fails to grant equal employment as required by law.
- ⑧ Prohibit discrimination against any job applicant, unpaid intern, or employee in hiring, promotions, assignments, termination, or any term, condition, or privilege of employment.
- ⑨ Require employers, employment agencies, and unions to preserve applications, personnel records, and employment referral records for a minimum of two years.
- ⑩ Require employers to provide leaves of up to four months to employees disabled because of pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.
- ⑪ Require an employer to provide reasonable accommodations requested by an employee, on the advice of their health care provider, related to their pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.
- ⑫ Require employers of 50 or more persons to allow eligible employees to take up to 12 weeks leave in a 12-month period for the birth of a child; the placement of a child for adoption or foster care; for an employee's own serious health condition; or to care for a parent, spouse, or child with a serious health condition. The law also requires employers to post a notice informing employees of their family and medical leave rights.
- ⑬ Require employment agencies to serve all applicants equally, refuse discriminatory job orders, and prohibit

employers and employment agencies from making discriminatory pre-hiring inquiries or publishing help-wanted advertisements that express a discriminatory hiring preference.

- ⑭ Prohibit unions from discriminating in member admissions or dispatching members to jobs.
- ⑮ Prohibit retaliation against a person who opposes, reports, or assists another person to oppose unlawful discrimination.

FILING A COMPLAINT

The law provides for remedies for individuals who experience prohibited discrimination or harassment in the workplace. These remedies include hiring, front pay, back pay, promotion, reinstatement, cease-and-desist orders, expert witness fees, reasonable attorney's fees and costs, punitive damages, and emotional distress damages.

Job applicants, unpaid interns, and employees: If you believe you have experienced discrimination or harassment you may file a complaint with DFEH. Independent contractors and volunteers: If you believe you have been harassed, you may file a complaint with DFEH.

Complaints must be filed within one year of the last act of discrimination/harassment or, for victims who are under the age of 18, not later than one year after the victim's eighteenth birthday.

If you have a disability that prevents you from submitting a written pre-complaint form on-line, by mail, or email, DFEH can assist you by scribing your pre-complaint by phone or, for individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing or have speech disabilities, through the California Relay Service (711), or call us through your VRS at (800) 884-1684 (voice).

To schedule an appointment, contact the Communication Center at (800) 884-1684 (voice or via relay operator 711) or (800) 700-2320 (TTY) or by email at contact.center@dfeh.ca.gov.

DFEH is committed to providing access to our materials in an alternative format as a reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities when requested.

Contact DFEH at (800) 884-1684 (voice or via relay operator 711), TTY (800) 700-2320, or contact.center@dfeh.ca.gov to discuss your preferred format to access our materials or webpages.

DFEH-E07P-ENG / May 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Department of Fair Employment and Housing

Toll Free: (800) 884-1684

TTY: (800) 700-2320

Online: www.dfeh.ca.gov

Also find us on:



Government Code section 12950 and California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 11013, require all employers to post this document. It must be conspicuously posted in hiring offices, on employee bulletin boards, in employment agency waiting rooms, union halls, and other places employees gather. Any employer whose workforce at any facility or establishment consists of more than 10% of non-English speaking persons must also post this notice in the appropriate language or languages.

THE MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FAIR
EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING IS TO PROTECT
THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA FROM UNLAWFUL
DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING AND
PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS, AND FROM THE
PERPETRATION OF ACTS OF HATE VIOLENCE AND
HUMAN TRAFFICKING



EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION BASED ON DISABILITY

COMPLAINTS MUST BE FILED WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE LAST ACT OF DISCRIMINATION FILING A COMPLAINT

Employees or job applicants who believe they have been discriminated against or harassed because of a disability may, within one year of the alleged discrimination, file a complaint with DFEH by contacting DFEH on our website or by phone as described on the back of this brochure. DFEH processes complaints filed by persons with terminal illnesses on a priority basis.

DFEH serves as an objective fact-finder and attempts to help the parties voluntarily resolve disputes. If DFEH finds sufficient evidence of discrimination and settlement efforts fail, DFEH may file a lawsuit in civil court on behalf of the complaining party, after a mandatory mediation. If the court finds that discrimination has occurred, it can order remedies such as:

- 1 *Damages for emotional distress from each employer or person in violation of the law*
- 2 *Hiring or reinstatement*
- 3 *Back pay or promotion*
- 4 *Changes in the policies or practices of the employer*
- 5 *Punitive damages*
- 6 *Reasonable attorney's fees and costs*

Employees can also pursue the matter through a private lawsuit in civil court after a complaint has been filed with DFEH and a Right-to-Sue Notice has been issued.

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The Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA), enforced by the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH), prohibits employment discrimination and harassment based on a person's disability or perceived disability. In addition, the FEHA prohibits retaliation for exercising a FEHA right, such as filing a complaint about discrimination. The law also requires employers to reasonably accommodate individuals with mental or physical disabilities unless the employer can show that to do so would cause an undue hardship.

If you have a disability that prevents you from submitting a written pre-complaint form on-line, by mail, or email, DFEH can assist you by scribing your pre-complaint by phone or, for individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing or have speech disabilities, through the California Relay Service (711), or call us through your VRS at (800) 884-1684 (voice).

To schedule an appointment, contact the Communication Center at (800) 884-1684 (voice or via relay operator 711) or (800) 700-2320 (TTY) or by email at center@dfeh.ca.gov.

The law covers mental or physical disabilities, including HIV/AIDS, regardless of whether the conditions are presently disabling. It also covers medical conditions, which are defined as either cancer or genetic characteristics.

Disability does not include sexual behavior disorders, compulsive gambling, kleptomania, pyromania, or psychoactive substance abuse disorders resulting from the current illegal use of drugs.

IN ADDITION TO THE PROTECTIONS OF THE FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING ACT, EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITIES MAY ALSO BE COVERED BY THE CALIFORNIA FAMILY RIGHTS ACT OR THE FEDERAL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

DFEH is committed to providing access to our materials in an alternative format as a reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities when requested.

Contact DFEH at (800) 884-1684 (voice or via relay operator 711), TTY (800) 700-2320, or [contact.center@dfeh.ca.gov](mailto:center@dfeh.ca.gov) to discuss your preferred format to access our materials or webpages.



FEHA VS. THE FEDERAL AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION AND
HARASSMENT BASED ON A PERSON'S
DISABILITY OR PERCEIVED DISABILITY
ARE PROHIBITED

CALIFORNIA LAW PROHIBITS
DISCRIMINATION BASED UPON
AN INDIVIDUAL'S ACTUAL OR
PERCEIVED DISABILITY

The FEHA provides broader protection for persons with disabilities than federal law. California employers with five or more employees must follow the FEHA. California also has broader definitions of mental disability, physical disability, and medical condition than does federal law.

Under California law, a disability must only "limit" a major life activity. The disability does not have to involve a "substantial limitation," as under federal law, to be considered a disability. Whether a condition or disability "limits" a major life activity is determined regardless of any mitigating measure, such as medication or prosthesis, unless the mitigating measure itself limits a major life activity.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

An employer is required to interact with an employee to explore all possible means of reasonably accommodating a person prior to rejecting the person for a job or making any employment-related decision. The need for accommodation may arise from a mitigating measure, such as medication taken for the primary disability.

An accommodation is reasonable if it does not impose an undue hardship on the employer's business. Reasonable accommodation can include, but is not limited to, changing job duties or work hours, providing leave, relocating the work area, and/or providing mechanical or electrical aids. An employer may obtain help from government agencies and outside experts to determine whether accommodation is possible.

EMPLOYMENT INQUIRIES

The FEHA prohibits employers from either verbally or in writing:

- 1 Requiring any medical or psychological examination or related inquiry of any applicant or employee prior to making an offer of employment
- 2 Inquiring directly or indirectly as to whether an applicant or employee has a mental or physical disability or medical condition
- 3 Inquiring about the nature and severity of a mental or physical disability or medical condition

However, an employer may inquire into the ability of an applicant to perform job-related functions and may respond to an applicant's request either with or without a reasonable accommodation.

Once an employment offer has been made to an applicant, but before the start of duties, an employer may require a medical or psychological examination. However, the examination or inquiry must be job related and consistent with business necessity and all entering employees in the same job classification must be subject to the same examination or inquiry.

An employer may also conduct voluntary medical examinations, including medical histories, as part of an employee health program. This information must be retained separate and apart from employment and personnel records. Employers may not penalize employees for declining to participate in voluntary medical examinations.

INDEPENDENT MEDICAL OPINION

An employer must allow an applicant the opportunity to submit an independent medical opinion if there is a dispute as to whether the person can perform the essential functions of a position with or without reasonable accommodation. Failure to allow the submission of an independent medical opinion may be a separate violation of the law.

DISCRIMINATION

The following two reasons commonly raised by employers are not legally acceptable excuses for discriminating against persons with disabilities:

- Possibility of future harm to the person or to others
- Employing individuals with disabilities will cause an employer's insurance rates to rise

Any employment-related or personnel decision based on either of the following reasons is not discriminatory:

- The person is unable to perform the essential functions of the job and no reasonable accommodation exists that would enable the person to perform the "essential functions" of the job
- The person would create an imminent and substantial danger to self or others by performing the job and no reasonable accommodation exists that would remove or reduce the danger

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COMPLAINTS MUST BE FILED WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE LAST ACT OF DISCRIMINATION FILING A COMPLAINT

If you believe you are a victim of discrimination you may, within one year of the discrimination, file a complaint of discrimination with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing by following these steps:

- ① *Contact DFEH by using the information on the back of this brochure*
- ② *Be prepared to present specific facts about the alleged discrimination or denial of leave*
- ③ *Keep records and provide copies of documents that support the charges in the complaint, such as paycheck stubs, calendars, correspondence and other potential proof of discrimination*

DFEH will conduct an impartial investigation. We represent the State of California. DFEH will, if possible, try to assist both parties to resolve the complaint.

If a voluntary settlement cannot be reached, and there is sufficient evidence to establish a violation of the law, DFEH may issue a civil complaint and litigate the case in state or federal court.

If the court decides in favor of the complaining party, remedies may include reinstatement, back pay, reasonable attorney's fees and costs, damages for emotional distress, and punitive damages.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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The Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA), enforced by the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH), contains provisions relating to pregnancy leave. These provisions cover all employers with five or more full or part time employees.

In addition, there are certain leave and transfer protections and guarantees provided under the FEHA and the California Family Rights Act (CFRA).

All employers must provide information about pregnancy leave rights to their employees and post information about pregnancy leave rights in a conspicuous place where employees tend to gather. Employers who provide employee handbooks must include information about pregnancy leave in the handbook.

IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR AN EMPLOYER TO DISCRIMINATE IN TERMS OF COMPENSATION, CONDITIONS, OR PRIVILEGES OF EMPLOYMENT BECAUSE OF PREGNANCY, CHILD BIRTH, OR RELATED MEDICAL CONDITIONS



RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

LEAVE REQUIREMENTS

- An employee disabled by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition is entitled to up to four months of disability leave per pregnancy. If the employer provides more than four months of leave for other types of temporary disabilities, the same leave must be made available to employees who are disabled due to pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

- Leave can be taken before or after birth during any period of time the employee is physically unable to work because of pregnancy or a pregnancy-related condition. All leave taken in connection with a specific pregnancy counts toward computing the four-month period.

- Pregnancy leave is available when an employee is actually disabled. This includes time off needed for prenatal or postnatal care, severe morning sickness, doctor-ordered bed rest, childbirth, recovery from childbirth, loss or end of pregnancy, or any other related medical condition.

- If an employee is disabled as the result of a condition related to pregnancy, childbirth, or associated medical conditions and requests reasonable accommodation upon the advice of the employee's health-care provider, an employer must provide reasonable accommodation.

- As an accommodation, and with advice of a physician, an employee can request transfer to a less strenuous or hazardous position or duties because of the employee's pregnancy.

- Employees are entitled to take pregnancy disability leave in addition to any leave entitlement they might have under CFRA. For example, an employee could take up to four months pregnancy disability leave for any period of disability, and also take up to 12 weeks CFRA leave to bond with the baby; to bond with an adopted child; or to care for a parent, spouse, or child with a serious health condition. CFRA leave may also be taken for the employee's own serious health condition. For more information, see DFEH's brochure entitled "California Family Rights Act."

- If possible, an employee must provide their employer with at least 30 days advance notice of the date for which the pregnancy disability leave or accommodation is sought and the estimated duration of the leave or accommodation.

- If 30 days advance notice is not possible due to a change in circumstances or a medical emergency, notice must be given as soon as practicable. The leave may be modified as an employee's changing medical condition dictates. If the reinstatement date differs from the original agreement, or if no agreement was made, an employer must reinstate the employee within two business days of being given notice that the employee intends to return. When two business days are not feasible, reinstatement must be made as soon as possible to expedite the employee's return.

SALARY AND BENEFITS DURING LEAVE

- Employers who provide health insurance coverage for employees who take leave for other temporary disabilities must provide coverage for employees who take leave for pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions.

- An employer may require an employee to use accrued sick leave during any unpaid portion of their pregnancy disability leave. The employee may also use vacation leave credits to receive compensation for which the employee is eligible. But an employer may not require an employee to use vacation leave or other accrued time off during pregnancy disability leave.

RETURN RIGHTS

- It is illegal for an employer to fire an employee because that employee is pregnant or taking pregnancy disability leave. Employers are required by law to reinstate employees to the same position those employees had before taking leave, and an employee may request this guarantee in writing. In some situations, an employee may be reinstated to a position that is comparable (same tasks, skills, benefits, and pay) to the job they had before taking PDL.

- However, pregnancy disability leave does not protect employees from employment actions not related to their pregnancy, such as layoffs.



YOUR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS AS A PREGNANT EMPLOYEE

If you are pregnant, have a related medical condition, or are recovering from childbirth, please read this notice.

California law protects employees against discrimination or harassment because of an employee's pregnancy, childbirth or any related medical condition (referred to below as "because of pregnancy"). California law also prohibits employers from denying or interfering with an employee's pregnancy-related employment rights.

YOUR EMPLOYER HAS AN OBLIGATION TO:

- Reasonably accommodate your medical needs related to pregnancy, childbirth or related conditions (such as temporarily modifying your work duties, providing you with a stool or chair, or allowing more frequent breaks);
- Transfer you to a less strenuous or hazardous position (where one is available) or duties if medically needed because of your pregnancy; and
- Provide you with pregnancy disability leave (PDL) of up to four months (the working days you normally would work in one-third of a year or 17 1/3 weeks) and return you to your same job when you are no longer disabled by your pregnancy or, in certain instances, to a comparable job. Taking PDL, however, does not protect you from non-leave related employment actions, such as a layoff.
- Provide a reasonable amount of break time and use of a room or other location in close proximity to the employee's work area to express breast milk in private as set forth in the Labor Code.

FOR PREGNANCY DISABILITY LEAVE:

- PDL is not for an automatic period of time, but for the period of time that you are disabled by pregnancy. Your health care provider determines how much time you will need.
- Once your employer has been informed that you need to take PDL, your employer must guarantee in writing that you can return to work in your same position if you request a written guarantee. Your employer may require you to submit written medical certification from your health care provider substantiating the need for your leave.
- PDL may include, but is not limited to, additional or more frequent breaks, time for prenatal or postnatal medical appointments, doctor-ordered bed rest, severe morning sickness, gestational diabetes, pregnancy-induced hypertension, preeclampsia, recovery from childbirth or loss or end of pregnancy, and/or post-partum depression.
- PDL does not need to be taken all at once but can be taken on an as-needed basis as required by your health care provider, including intermittent leave or a reduced work schedule, all of which counts against your four month entitlement to leave.
- Your leave will be paid or unpaid depending on your employer's policy for other medical leaves. You may also be eligible for state disability insurance or Paid Family Leave (PFL), administered by the California Employment Development Department.
- At your discretion, you can use any vacation or other paid time off during your PDL.

- Your employer may require or you may choose to use any available sick leave during your PDL.
- Your employer is required to continue your group health coverage during your PDL at the same level and under the same conditions that coverage would have been provided if you had continued in employment continuously for the duration of your leave.
- Taking PDL may impact certain of your benefits and your seniority date; please contact your employer for details.
- If possible, you must provide at least 30 days' advance notice for foreseeable events (such as the expected birth of a child or a planned medical treatment for yourself). For events that are unforeseeable, we need you to notify us, at least verbally, as soon as you learn of the need for the leave. Failure to comply with these notice rules is grounds for, and may result in, deferral of the requested leave until you comply with this notice policy.

NOTICE OBLIGATIONS AS AN EMPLOYEE:

- Give your employer reasonable notice. To receive reasonable accommodation, obtain a transfer, or take PDL, you must give your employer sufficient notice for your employer to make appropriate plans. Sufficient notice means 30 days advance notice if the need for the reasonable accommodation, transfer, or PDL is foreseeable, otherwise as soon as practicable if the need is an emergency or unforeseeable.
- Provide a Written Medical Certification from Your Health Care Provider. Except in a medical emergency where there is no time to obtain it, your employer may require you to supply a written medical certification from your health care provider of the medical need for your reasonable accommodation, transfer or PDL. If the need is an emergency or unforeseeable, you must provide this certification within the time frame your employer requests, unless it is not practicable for you to do so under the circumstances despite your diligent, good faith efforts. Your employer must provide at least 15 calendar days for you to submit the certification. See your employer for a copy of a medical certification form to give to your health care provider to complete.
- Please note that if you fail to give your employer reasonable advance notice or, if your employer requires it, written medical certification of your medical need, your employer may be justified in delaying your reasonable accommodation, transfer, or PDL.

ADDITIONAL RIGHTS UNDER CALIFORNIA FAMILY RIGHTS ACT (CFRA) LEAVE:

You also may be entitled to additional rights under the California Family Rights Act of 1993 (CFRA) if you have more than 12 months of service with us and have worked at least 1,250 hours in the 12-month period before the date you want to begin your leave. This leave may be up to 12 workweeks in a 12-month period for the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of your child or for your own serious health condition (not related to pregnancy) or that of your child, parent or spouse. While the law provides only unpaid leave, employees may choose or employers may require use of accrued paid leave while taking CFRA leave under certain circumstances. For further information on the availability CFRA leave, please review your employer's Notice regarding the availability of CFRA leave.

This notice is a summary of your rights and obligations under the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA). For more information about your rights and obligations as a pregnant employee, contact your employer, visit the Department of Fair Employment and Housing's Web site at www.dfeh.ca.gov, or contact the Department at (800) 884-1684 (voice or via relay operator 711), TTY (800) 700-2320, or contact center@dfeh.ca.gov. The text of the FEHA and the regulations interpreting it are available on the Department of Fair Employment and Housing's Web site at www.dfeh.ca.gov.



FAMILY CARE AND MEDICAL LEAVE (CFRA LEAVE) AND PREGNANCY DISABILITY LEAVE

Under the California Family Rights Act of 1993 (CFRA), if you have more than 12 months of service with us and have worked at least 1,250 hours in the 12-month period before the date you want to begin your leave, you may have a right to family care or medical leave (CFRA leave). This leave may be up to 12 workweeks in a 12-month period for the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of your child or for your own serious health condition or that of your child, parent or spouse. While the law provides only unpaid leave, employees may choose or employers may require use of accrued paid leave while taking CFRA leave under certain circumstances.

Even if you are not eligible for CFRA leave, if you are disabled by pregnancy, childbirth or a related medical condition, you are entitled to take a pregnancy disability leave of up to four months, depending on your period(s) of actual disability. If you are CFRA-eligible, you have certain rights to take BOTH a pregnancy disability leave and a CFRA leave for reason of the birth of your child. Both leaves contain a guarantee of reinstatement—for pregnancy disability it is to the same position and for CFRA it is to the same or a comparable position—at the end of the leave, subject to any defense allowed under the law.

If possible, you must provide at least 30 days' advance notice for foreseeable events (such as the expected birth of a child or a planned medical treatment for yourself or of a family member). For events that are unforeseeable, we need you to notify us, at least verbally, as soon as you learn of the need for the leave. Failure to comply with these notice rules is grounds for, and may result in, deferral of the requested leave until you comply with this notice policy.

We may require certification from your health care provider before allowing you a leave for pregnancy disability or for your own serious health condition. We also may require certification from the health care provider of your child, parent or spouse, who has a serious health condition, before allowing you a leave to take care of that family member. When medically necessary, leave may be taken on an intermittent or reduced work schedule.

If you are taking a leave for the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a child, the basic minimum duration of the leave is two weeks, and you must conclude the leave within one year of the birth or placement for adoption or foster care.

Taking a family care or pregnancy disability leave may impact certain of your benefits and your seniority date. If you want more information regarding your eligibility for a leave and/or the impact of the leave on your seniority and benefits, please contact _____.



TRANSGENDER RIGHTS IN THE WORKPLACE

WHAT DOES "TRANSGENDER" MEAN?

Transgender is a term used to describe people whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. Gender expression is defined by the law to mean a "person's gender-related appearance and behavior whether or not stereotypically associated with the person's assigned sex at birth." People who identify as transgender are protected by the provisions of California's Fair Employment & Housing Act prohibiting discrimination based on sex, gender, gender identity, and gender expression.

THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF GENDER TRANSITION

- 1 "Social transition" involves a process of socially aligning one's gender with the internal sense of self (e.g. changes in name and pronoun, bathroom facility usage, participation in activities like sports teams).
- 2 "Physical transition" refers to medical treatments an individual may undergo to physically align their body with internal sense of self (e.g. hormone therapies or surgical procedures).

A transgender person does not need to complete any particular step in a gender transition in order to be protected by the law. An employer may not condition its treatment or accommodation of a transitioning employee upon completion of a particular step in a gender transition.

FAQ FOR EMPLOYERS

What is an employer allowed to ask? Employers may ask about an employee's employment history, and may ask for personal references, in addition to other non-discriminatory questions. An interviewer should not ask questions designed to detect a person's sexual orientation or gender identity, including asking about their marital status, spouse's name, or relation of household members to one another. Employers should not ask questions about a person's body or whether they plan to have surgery, because this information is generally protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

How do employers implement dress codes and grooming standards? California law explicitly prohibits an employer from denying an employee the right to dress in a manner suitable for that employee's gender identity. An employer who requires a dress code must enforce it in a non-discriminatory manner. This

means, for instance, that a transgender woman may not be held to any different standard of dress or grooming than any other woman in the workplace. And, in general, an employer may not impose any dress or grooming standard that is inconsistent with an individual's gender identity or gender expression, unless the employer can establish business necessity.

What are the obligations of employers when it comes to bathrooms, showers, and locker rooms? All employees have a right to safe and appropriate restroom and locker room facilities. This includes the right to use a restroom or locker room that corresponds to the employee's gender identity, regardless of the employee's assigned sex at birth. In addition, where possible, an employer should provide an easily accessible unisex single stall bathroom for use by any employee who desires increased privacy, regardless of the underlying reason. Use of a unisex single stall restroom should always be a matter of choice. No employee should be forced to use one either as a matter of policy or due to continuing harassment in a gender-appropriate facility. Under state law, all single-user toilet facilities in any business establishment, place of public accommodation, or state or local government agency must be identified as all-gender toilet facilities.

FILING A COMPLAINT

If you believe you are a victim of discrimination you may, within one year of the discrimination, file a complaint of discrimination by contacting DFEH.

If you have a disability that prevents you from submitting a written pre-complaint form on-line, by mail, or email, DFEH can assist you by scribing your pre-complaint by phone or, for individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing or have speech disabilities, through the California Relay Service (711), or call us through your VRS at (800) 884-1684 (voice). DFEH is committed to providing access to our materials in an alternative format as a reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities when requested.

To schedule an appointment or to discuss your preferred format to access our materials or webpages, contact the Communication Center at (800) 884-1684 (voice or via relay operator 711) or (800) 700-2320 (TTY) or by email at contact.center@dfeh.ca.gov.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Department of Fair Employment and Housing
Toll Free: (800) 884-1684 TTY: (800) 700-2320 dfeh.ca.gov

Also find us on:



SEXUAL HARASSMENT INCLUDES MANY FORMS OF OFFENSIVE BEHAVIORS

BEHAVIORS THAT MAY BE SEXUAL HARASSMENT:

THE MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING IS TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA FROM UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING AND PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS, AND FROM THE PERPETRATION OF ACTS OF HATE VIOLENCE AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING.



SEXUAL HARASSMENT

- 1 *Unwanted sexual advances*
- 2 *Offering employment benefits in exchange for sexual favors*
- 3 *Leering; gestures; or displaying sexually suggestive objects, pictures, cartoons, or posters*
- 4 *Derogatory comments, epithets, slurs, or jokes*
- 5 *Graphic comments, sexually degrading words, or suggestive or obscene messages or invitations*
- 6 *Physical touching or assault, as well as impeding or blocking movements*

Actual or threatened retaliation for rejecting advances or complaining about harassment is also unlawful.

Employees or job applicants who believe that they have been sexually harassed or retaliated against may file a complaint of discrimination with DFEH within one year of the last act of harassment or retaliation. DFEH serves as a neutral fact-finder and attempts to help the parties voluntarily resolve disputes. If DFEH finds sufficient evidence to establish that discrimination occurred and settlement efforts fail, the Department may file a civil complaint in state or federal court to address the causes of the discrimination and on behalf of the complaining party. DFEH may seek court orders changing the employer's policies and practices, punitive damages, and attorney's fees and costs if it prevails in litigation. Employees can also pursue the matter through a private lawsuit in civil court after a complaint has been filed with DFEH and a Right-to-Sue Notice has been issued.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Department of Fair Employment and Housing

Toll Free: (800) 884-1684

TTY: (800) 700-2320

Online: www.dfeh.ca.gov

Also find us on:



THE FACTS

Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination based on sex/gender (including pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions), gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation. Individuals of any gender can be the target of sexual harassment. Unlawful sexual harassment does not have to be motivated by sexual desire. Sexual harassment may involve harassment of a person of the same gender as the harasser, regardless of either person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

①

"*Quid pro quo*" (Latin for "this for that") sexual harassment is when someone conditions a job, promotion, or other work benefit on your submission to sexual advances or other conduct based on sex.

②

"*Hostile work environment*" sexual harassment occurs when unwelcome comments or conduct based on sex unreasonably interfere with your work performance or create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment. You may experience sexual harassment even if the offensive conduct was not aimed directly at you.

The harassment must be severe or pervasive to be unlawful. That means that it alters the conditions of your employment and creates an abusive work environment. A single act of harassment may be sufficiently severe to be unlawful.

If you have a disability that prevents you from submitting a written pre-complaint form on-line, by mail, or email, the DFEH can assist you by scribing your pre-complaint by phone or, for individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing or have speech disabilities, through the California Relay Service (711), or call us through your VRS at (800) 884-1684 (voice).

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CIVIL REMEDIES:

- 1 *Damages for emotional distress from each employer or person in violation of the law*
- 2 *Hiring or reinstatement*
- 3 *Back pay or promotion*
- 4 *Changes in the policies or practices of the employer*

EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITY & LIABILITY

All employers, regardless of the number of employees, are covered by the harassment provisions of California law. Employers are liable for harassment by their supervisors or agents. All harassers, including both supervisory and non-supervisory personnel, may be held personally liable for harassment or for aiding and abetting harassment. The law requires employers to take reasonable steps to prevent harassment. If an employer fails to take such steps, that employer can be held liable for the harassment. In addition, an employer may be liable for the harassment by a non-employee (for example, a client or customer) of an employee, applicant, or person providing services for the employer. An employer will only be liable for this form of harassment if it knew or should have known of the harassment, and failed to take immediate and appropriate corrective action.

Employers have an affirmative duty to take reasonable steps to prevent and promptly correct discriminatory and harassing conduct, and to create a workplace free of harassment.

A program to eliminate sexual harassment from the workplace is not only required by law, but it is the most practical way for an employer to avoid or limit liability if harassment occurs.

ALL EMPLOYERS MUST TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS TO PREVENT HARASSMENT AND CORRECT IT WHEN IT OCCURS:

- ① Distribute copies of this brochure or an alternative writing that complies with Government Code 12950. This pamphlet may be duplicated in any quantity.
- ② Post a copy of the Department's employment poster entitled "California Law Prohibits Workplace Discrimination and Harassment."
- ③ Develop a harassment, discrimination, and retaliation prevention policy in accordance with 2 CCR 11023. The policy must:

- Be in writing.
- List all protected groups under the FEHA.
- Indicate that the law prohibits coworkers and third parties, as well as supervisors and managers with whom the employee comes into contact, from engaging in prohibited harassment.
- Create a complaint process that ensures confidentiality to the extent possible; a timely response; an impartial and timely investigation by qualified personnel; documentation and tracking for reasonable progress; appropriate options for remedial actions and resolutions; and timely closures.

- Provide a complaint mechanism that does not require an employee to complain directly to their immediate supervisor. That complaint mechanism must include, but is not limited to including: provisions for direct communication, either orally or in writing, with a designated company representative; and/or a complaint hotline; and/or access to an ombudsman; and/or identification of DFEH and the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as additional avenues for employees to lodge complaints.

- Instruct supervisors to report any complaints of misconduct to a designated company representative, such as a human resources

manager, so that the company can try to resolve the claim internally. Employers with 50 or more employees are required to include this as a topic in mandated sexual harassment prevention training (see 2 CCR 11024).

- Indicate that when the employer receives allegations of misconduct, it will conduct a fair, timely, and thorough investigation that provides all parties appropriate due process and reaches reasonable conclusions based on the evidence collected.
- Make clear that employees shall not be retaliated against as a result of making a complaint or participating in an investigation.

- ④ Distribute its harassment, discrimination, and retaliation prevention policy by doing one or more of the following:

- Printing the policy and providing a copy to employees with an acknowledgement form for employees to sign and return.
- Sending the policy via email with an acknowledgment return form.
- Posting the current version of the policy on a company intranet with a tracking system to ensure all employees have read and acknowledged receipt of the policy.
- Discussing policies upon hire and/or during a new hire orientation session.
- Using any other method that ensures employees received and understand the policy.

- ⑤ If the employer's workforce at any facility or establishment contains ten percent or more of persons who speak a language other than English as their spoken language, that employer shall translate the harassment, discrimination, and retaliation policy into every language spoken by at least ten percent of the workforce.

- ⑥ In addition, employers who do business in California and employ 50 or more part-time or full-time employees must provide at least two hours of sexual harassment training every two years to each supervisory employee and to all new supervisory employees within six months of their assumption of a supervisory position.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS POLICY WITH ACKNOWLEDGMENT

A. POLICY AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

_____ (the “Company”) is committed to providing a work environment that is free of discrimination. In keeping with this commitment, the Company maintains a strict policy prohibiting unlawful discrimination and retaliation. This policy applies to all employees of the Company, including supervisors and non-supervisory employees. The policy also prohibits unlawful discrimination and retaliation by non-employees of the Company with whom employees come into contact, including clients, customers, vendors and any other person doing business with the Company.

All aspects of employment with the Company will be governed on the basis of merit, competence and qualifications and will not be influenced in any manner by an individual's race, ancestry, color, religious creed (including religious dress and grooming practices), national origin, marital status, sex (including sexual harassment), sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, disability (physical or mental including HIV/AIDS diagnosis), pregnancy (including breastfeeding and conditions related to breastfeeding), medical condition (cancer and genetic characteristics), age (40 or over), military and veteran status, or exercising the right to any legally provided leave of absence in the application of any policy, practice, rule or regulation.

All decisions made with respect to recruiting and hiring, evaluations and promotions for all job classifications will be based solely on individual qualifications as related to the requirements of the position. Likewise, all other personnel matters such as compensation, benefits, transfers, lay-offs, training, educational opportunities and programs will be administered free from any illegal discriminatory practices.

B. POLICY AGAINST HARASSMENT, INCLUDING SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The Company is also committed to providing a work environment that is free of harassment, including sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment includes:

1. Unwanted sexual advances;
2. Offering employment benefits in exchange for sexual favors;
3. Making or threatening reprisals after a negative response to sexual advances;
4. Visual conduct: leering, making sexual gestures, displaying of sexually suggestive objects or pictures, cartoons or posters;
5. Verbal conduct: making or using derogatory comments, epithets, slurs, and jokes;
6. Verbal sexual advances or propositions;
7. Verbal abuse of a sexual nature, graphic verbal commentaries about an individual's body, sexually degrading words used to describe an individual, suggestive or obscene letters, notes, or invitations;

8. Physical conduct: touching, assault, impeding or blocking movement; and

9. Further, the Company prohibits abusive conduct (“bullying”): Any form of abusive conduct by an employee in the workplace, with malice, that a reasonable person would find hostile, offensive, and unrelated to the Company’s business interest.

C. COMPLAINT AND INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE

Any form of discrimination, retaliation or harassment, including sexual harassment, is absolutely prohibited. Any incident of possible discrimination, retaliation or harassment should be brought immediately to the attention of the Human Resources Department of the Company, either verbally or in writing, which will thoroughly investigate the matter. Supervisors who receive complaints of discrimination, retaliation or harassment from their employees are required to forward those complaints to the Human Resources Department.

The Company will conduct a fair, impartial, and thorough investigation by qualified personnel that provides all parties appropriate due process. The investigation shall be conducted confidentially to the extent confidentiality is possible. The Company will document and track the progress of the investigation. The Company will make a reasonable determination, after reviewing all the evidence collected, concerning whether misconduct occurred. The investigation will be completed in a timely manner and the employee who filed the complaint will receive a timely response. If misconduct is found to have occurred, appropriate remedial measures will be taken. Disciplinary action, up to and including discharge, will be taken against any employee who is found to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy.

No employee shall be subjected to any form of retaliation for reporting any violation of this policy truthfully and in good faith, or for participating in any investigation conducted pursuant to this policy.

HARASSMENT BY NON-EMPLOYEES

In addition, the Company will take all reasonable steps to prevent or eliminate sexual harassment by non-employees including customers, clients and suppliers who are likely to have workplace conduct with our employees.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS POLICY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I have read and received a copy of the Company’s Employee Relations Policy, including the policies against discrimination, retaliation and harassment, including sexual harassment, and fully understand my obligations and responsibilities as outlined therein.

Signed: _____

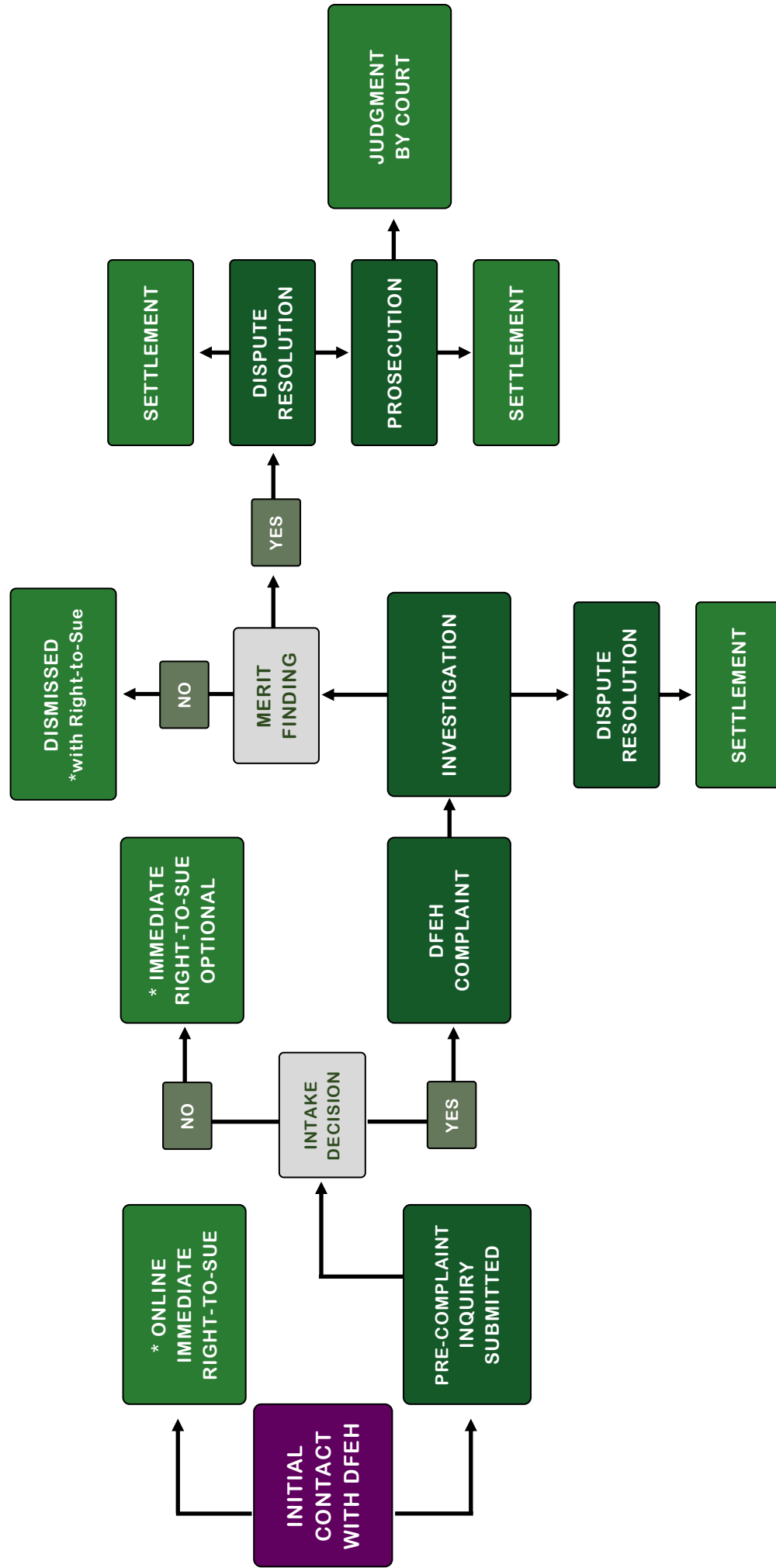
Date: _____

Witness: _____

Date: _____



DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT & HOUSING EMPLOYMENT COMPLAINT FLOWCHART



* Immediate Right-to-Sue is for employment complaints only
01/2017 DFEH-A02P-ENG

PROTECTED BY THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE

DISCRIMINATION ALLEGATION/EVENT REPORTING FORM

TO: Alfred J. Landegger, Esq.
Roxana E. Verano, Esq.

FAX NO. (818) 986-5147

COMPANY: LANDEGGER BARON LAW GROUP

FROM: _____

DATE: _____

CC: _____

This form must be completed by the Branch Manager, Supervisor or by the corporate Human Resource Department no later than the next business day after any allegation of harassment or discrimination in the workplace.

1 Please complete the attached First Report of Event or Circumstance. When interviewing the employee, do not feel compelled to ask the questions in the same order. Feel free to ask additional questions. Always be a good listener and take accurate notes. Never label the behavior, statement or allegation as “sexual harassment” or “discrimination”. Document the words used by employee. No further investigation is to take place until instructed to do so by _____ and Landegger Baron Law Group;

2 Attach a copy of the personnel file of the employee making the allegation of harassment or discrimination; and

3 Attach the personnel file of the employee(s) against whom the allegation of harassment or discrimination has been made.

If you have any questions concerning this Discrimination Allegation/Event Reporting Form, or the attached First Report of Event or Circumstance, please contact Alfred J. Landegger, Esq. at (818) 986-7561.

FIRST REPORT OF EVENT OR CIRCUMSTANCE

Date: _____

1. Name of Employee Being
Interviewed: _____

2. Name of
Interviewer: _____

3. Name Facility or
Location: _____

4. Tell Me What
Happened: _____

5. Who was
involved? _____

6. When did the incident(s) happen? _____

7. Where did the incident(s)
happen? _____

8. Were there any other
incident(s)? _____

9. How did this incident make you feel? _____

(NOTE: Attach additional documentation as necessary.)

FIRST REPORT OF EVENT OR CIRCUMSTANCE

Page 3

10. Was your work affected? _____

11. Was this the first time this had happened? _____

12. Were there any previous incidents of inappropriate behavior? _____

13. Have you kept any records, such as written notes, tape recordings or anything else?

(If so, please attach.)

14. Do you know of any other employee(s) who had similar experiences?

Who: _____

When: _____

15. Have you discussed this with anyone at work? _____

Who: _____

When: _____

16. Have you discussed this with anyone outside of work? _____

Who: _____

When: _____

17. Did you participate in the incident? _____

(NOTE: Attach additional documentation as necessary.)

FIRST REPORT OF EVENT OR CIRCUMSTANCE

Page 4

18. If yes, tell me how you participated:

19. How would you describe your relationship with the employee about whom you are complaining._____

20. Are there any other issues we should discuss?_____

21. Were any other facts or other information that you think I should know?_____

22. Who do you think I should talk to?_____

(NOTE: Attach additional documentation as necessary.)

FIRST REPORT OF EVENT OR CIRCUMSTANCE

Page 5

23. Do you have any suggestions as to how best to resolve the situation?

Type/Print Name of Person
Conducting Interview

Signature of Person Conducting Interview

Date: _____

(NOTE: Attach additional documentation as necessary.)