

<p style="text-align: center;">COUNTY OF WASHINGTON</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pennsylvania</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NON-DISCRIMINATION AND ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY</p>	<p>POLICY NO:</p> <p>DATE: June 28, 2001</p> <p>PAGE: 1 OF 6</p>
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POLICY

The County of Washington is committed to a work environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. Each individual has the right to work in a professional atmosphere that promotes equal employment opportunities and prohibits discriminatory practices, including harassment. Therefore, Washington County expects that all relationships among persons in each department will be business-like and free of bias, prejudice and harassment.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

It is the policy of Washington County to ensure equal employment opportunity without discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, ancestry, national origin, age, disability, citizenship or any other characteristic protected by law. Washington County prohibits any such discrimination or harassment.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all employees and applicants for employment regardless of employment status.

Retaliation is also Prohibited

Washington County encourages reporting of all perceived incidents of discrimination or harassment. It is the policy of Washington County to investigate such reports. Washington County prohibits retaliation against any individual who reports discrimination or harassment or participates in an investigation of such reports.

Definitions of Harassment

1. Sexual harassment constitutes discrimination and is illegal under federal, state and local laws. For the purpose of this policy, sexual harassment is defined, as in the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Guidelines, as unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when, for example: (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment; (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

Sexual harassment may include a range of subtle and not so subtle behaviors and may involve individuals of the same or different gender. Depending on the circumstances, these behaviors may include, but are not limited to: unwanted sexual advances or request for sexual favors; sexual jokes and innuendo; verbal abuse of a sexual nature; commentary about an individual's body, sexual prowess or sexual deficiencies; leering, whistling or touching; insulting or obscene comments or gestures; display in the workplace of sexually suggestive objects or pictures; and other physical, verbal or visual conduct of a sexual nature.

2. Harassment on the basis of any other protected characteristic is also strictly prohibited. Under this policy, harassment is verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual because of his/her race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, citizenship or any other characteristic protected by law or that of his/her relatives, friends or associates, and that (i) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment; (ii) has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance; or (iii) otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment opportunities.

Harassing conduct includes, but is not limited to: epithets, slurs or negative stereotyping; threatening, intimidating or hostile acts; denigrating jokes; and written or graphic material that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual or group and that is placed on walls or elsewhere on the employer's premises or circulated in the workplace.

Conduct Covered

Conduct prohibited by these policies is unacceptable in the workplace and in any work-related setting outside the workplace, such as during business trips, business meetings and business-related events.

PROCEDURE TO REPORTING AN INCIDENT OF HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION OR RETALIATION

Washington County encourages reporting of all perceived incidents of discrimination, harassment or retaliation, regardless of the offender's identity or position. Individuals who believe that they have been the victim of such conduct should discuss their concerns with their immediate supervisor or the Director of Human Resources or designee. See the Complaint Procedure described below.

In addition, Washington County encourages individuals who believe they are being subjected to such conduct to promptly advise the offender that his or her behavior is unwelcome and request that it be discontinued. Often this action alone will resolve the problem. Washington County recognizes, however, that an individual may prefer to pursue the matter through informal or formal complaint procedures.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Informal Procedure

If for any reason an individual does not wish to address the offender directly, or if such action does not successfully end the offensive conduct, the individual should notify his/her immediate supervisor or the Director of Human Resources or designee, who may, if the individual so requests, talk to the alleged offender on the individual's behalf. In addition, there may be instances in which an individual seeks only to discuss matters with one of the Washington County designated representatives, and such discussion is encouraged.

An individual reporting harassment, discrimination or retaliation should be aware, however, that Washington County might decide it is necessary to take action to address such conduct beyond an informal discussion. This decision will be discussed with the individual. The best course of action in any case will depend on many factors and, therefore, the informal procedure will remain flexible. Moreover, the informal procedure is not a required first step for the reporting individual.

Formal Procedure

As noted above, individuals who believe they have been the victims of conduct prohibited by this policy statement or believe they have witnessed such conduct should discuss their concerns with the Director of Human Resources or designee. The Human Resources Department will provide a form for the individual to file a complaint.

Washington County encourages the prompt reporting of complaints or concerns so that rapid and constructive action can be taken before relationships become irreparably strained. Therefore, while no fixed reporting period has been established, early reporting and intervention have proven to be the most effective method of resolving actual or perceived incidents of harassment.

Any reported allegations of harassment, discrimination or retaliation will be investigated promptly. The investigation may include individual interviews with the parties involved and, where necessary, with individuals who may have observed the alleged conduct or may have other relevant knowledge.

Confidentiality will be maintained throughout the investigatory process to the extent consistent with adequate investigation and appropriate corrective action.

Retaliation against an individual for reporting harassment or discrimination or for participating in an investigation of a claim of harassment or discrimination is a serious violation of this policy and, like harassment or discrimination itself, will be subject to disciplinary action. Acts of retaliation should be reported immediately and will be promptly investigated and addressed.

Misconduct constituting harassment, discrimination or retaliation will be dealt with appropriately. Responsive action may include, for example, training, referral to counseling or the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and/or disciplinary action up to and including termination as Washington County believes appropriate under the circumstances.

False and malicious complaints of harassment, discrimination or retaliation as opposed to complaints which, even if erroneous, are made in good faith, may be the subject of appropriate disciplinary action.

CONCLUSION

Washington County has developed this policy to ensure that all its employees can work in an environment free from harassment, discrimination and retaliation. Washington County will make every reasonable effort to ensure that all concerned are familiar with these policies and aware that any complaint in violation of such policies will be investigated and resolved appropriately.

Any employee who has any questions or concerns about these policies should talk with the Director of Human Resources or designee.

Finally, these policies should not, and may not, be used as a basis for excluding or separating individuals of a particular gender, or any other protected characteristic, from participating in business or work-related activities or discussions. In other words, no one should make the mistake of engaging in discrimination or exclusion in order to avoid allegations of harassment. The law and the policies of Washington County prohibit disparate treatment on the basis of sex or any other protected characteristic, with regards to terms, conditions, privileges and perquisites of employment. The prohibitions against harassment, discrimination and retaliation are intended to complement and further those policies, not to form the basis of an exception to them.

RESPONSIBILITY

Supervisors are responsible for the daily administration of this policy.

The Human Resources Department along with the County Solicitor shall be responsible for the overall interpretation and administration of this policy.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners shall have overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy.

ADOPTED this 28th day of June, 2001.

ATTEST:

Catherine E. Kresh
Catherine E. Kresh,
Chief Clerk/Administrator
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COUNTY OF WASHINGTON

John P. Bevec
John P. Bevec, Chairman

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