

**PROHIBITING HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION AND
RETALIATION POLICY**

**APPROVED BY
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
THE COAL CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT**

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**LEGAL UPDATES
JANUARY 14, 2025**

***DENOTES LEGAL LANGUAGE**

POLICY PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION *

The Library is committed to maintaining a work environment that is free of all forms of discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment, which are illegal under the Illinois Human Rights Act (IHRA) and Title VII of the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII). In keeping with this commitment, the Library will not tolerate discrimination or harassment by anyone, including any supervisor, employee, vendor, customer, consultant, contractor, Board member or other regular visitor of the Library. Violation of this policy shall be considered grounds for disciplinary action up to and including termination.

DISCRIMINATION*

Discrimination consists of employment actions taken against an individual based on an actual or perceived characteristic protected by law, such as sex, race (and traits associated with race including but not limited to hair texture and protective hairstyles), color, ancestry, national origin, citizenship status, work authorization status, religion, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, military or veteran status, genetic information, order of protection status, reproductive health decisions, family responsibilities or any other category protected by applicable law. In other words, discrimination occurs when an individual is treated differently or unequally because the individual is a member or perceived member of a protected group.

HARASSMENT*

Harassment consists of unwelcome conduct, whether verbal, physical or visual, that is based upon a person's actual or perceived protected status such as race (and traits associated with race including but not limited to hair texture and protective hairstyles), color, ancestry, national origin, citizenship status, work authorization status, religion, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, marital status, military or veteran status, genetic information, order of protection status, reproductive health decisions, family responsibilities, or any other category protected by applicable law. The Library will not tolerate harassing conduct that affects tangible job benefits, interferes unreasonably with an individual's work performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

The conduct forbidden by this policy specifically includes, but is not limited to:

1. Epithets, slurs, negative stereotypes, or intimidating acts that are based on a person's protected status; and
2. Written or graphic material circulated, within or posted within the workplace that shows hostility toward a person because of his or her actual or perceived protected status.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT*

Sexual harassment, as defined by the IHRA consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature where:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a person's employment;
2. Submission to or refusal to engage in such conduct is used as the basis for any employment decisions affecting such individual; or.
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

Sexual harassment, as defined above may include, but is not limited to:

1. Uninvited sex-oriented verbal "kidding" or demeaning sexual innuendoes, leers, gestures, teasing, sexually explicit or obscene jokes, remarks or questions of a sexual nature;
2. Graphic or suggestive comments about an individual's dress or body;
3. Displaying sexually explicit objects, photographs, writings or drawings;
4. Unwelcome touching, such as patting, pinching or constant brushing against another's body; or
5. Suggesting or demanding sexual involvement of another individual, whether or not such suggestion or demand is

accompanied by implicit or explicit threats concerning one's employment status or similar personal concerns.

Even if two or more individuals are engaging in consensual conduct, such conduct could constitute harassment or discrimination against another individual who witnesses or overhears the conduct and is adversely affected by it.

INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE*

Everyone is responsible to help ensure that harassment and discrimination do not occur and are not tolerated. An individual who believes that he or she has been subjected to sexual or other types of harassment or discrimination, or who has witnessed harassment or discrimination, should immediately submit a complaint to his or her supervisor, any other Charge Person or supervisor, the ethics officer or the Library Director. If a supervisor or charge person receives a complaint of harassment or discrimination or becomes aware of such conduct, the complaint or conduct shall immediately be reported to the Library Director. The Library Director can be contacted via phone 815-634-4552 ext. 104 or email jolene@ccpld.org.

The Library Director or the Assistant Director, shall promptly investigate all complaints and make all reasonable efforts to resolve the matter informally. These efforts may include, but are not limited to, convening conferences with the complainant and/or the accused harasser/discriminator to discuss the complaint and the results of the investigation.

Complaints by an elected/appointed official against another elected/appointed official shall be submitted to the Library Director. The Director shall, in consultation with the Library Attorney, ensure that an independent review is conducted with respect to such allegations.

The right to confidentiality, both of the complainant and of the accused, will be respected consistent with the Library's legal obligations and with the necessity to investigate allegations of misconduct and to take corrective action when this conduct has occurred.

A substantiated complaint against an employee will subject the individual to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. The Library will also take appropriate action to address a substantiated complaint of discrimination or harassment by a third party or non-employee. If an investigation results in

a finding that the complainant falsely accused another of harassment or discrimination knowingly or in a malicious manner, the complainant will be subject to appropriate discipline, including the possibility of discharge.

RETALIATION PROHIBITED*

Reporting harassment or discrimination or participating in an investigation will not reflect adversely upon an individual's status or affect future employment. Any form of retaliation against an individual who reports harassment or discrimination or participates in an investigation is strictly prohibited by the Illinois Human Rights Act, The Illinois State Officials and Employees Act, the Illinois Whistleblower Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Library's policy. Any individual who retaliates against another for exercising his or her rights under this policy shall be subject to discipline, up to and including termination. The Library will also take appropriate action to address a third party or non-employee who engages in retaliation.

RESOLUTION OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY*

The purpose of this policy is to establish prompt, thorough and effective procedures for responding to every complaint and incident so that the problems can identified and remedied internally. However, an individual has the right to contact the Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR) and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) about filing a formal complaint. Contact Information is as follows:

Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR)

- Chicago: (312) 814-6200 or 800-662-3942; TTY: 866-740-3953
- Springfield: 217-785-5100; TTY: 866-740-3953
- Marion: 618-993-7463; TTY: 866-740-3953

Illinois Human Rights Commission (IHRC)

- Chicago: 312-814-6269; TTY: 312-814-4760
- Springfield: 217-785-4350; TTY: 217-557-1500

United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

- Chicago: 800-669-4000; TTY: 800-869-8001