

State of Oregon
Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision
Brenda Carney, Executive Director



Affirmative Action Plan
July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015

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I. Description of Agency

A. Mission and objectives

The mission of the Board of Parole & Post-Prison Supervision (hereafter referred to as “the Board”) is to work in partnership with the Department of Corrections and local supervisory authorities to protect the public and reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior through incarceration and community supervision decisions based on applicable laws, victims' interests, public safety and recognized principles of offender behavior change.

The full-time Board was authorized in 1969. The Governor appoints the three full-time members for four-year terms and also appoints the chair and vice-chair.

The Board’s decisions are based on applicable laws, victims’ interests, public safety and the recognized principles of offender behavioral change.

The Board imposes prison terms and makes release decisions for offenders whose criminal conduct occurred prior to November 1, 1989. The Board also makes release decisions for offenders convicted of murder, aggravated murder, or convicted as a dangerous offender, whose criminal conduct occurred after November 1, 1989.

The Board sets conditions of supervision for all offenders being released from prison; imposes sanctions for violations of supervision; issues warrants; and determines whether discharge from parole supervision is compatible with public safety. Discharge from supervision for offenders sentenced under sentencing guidelines occurs automatically upon expiration of the statutory period of post-prison supervision.

B. Agency Directory/Administrator

Executive Director, Brenda Carney (503) 945-0919
Board Chairperson, Kristin Winges-Yanez (503) 945-9009

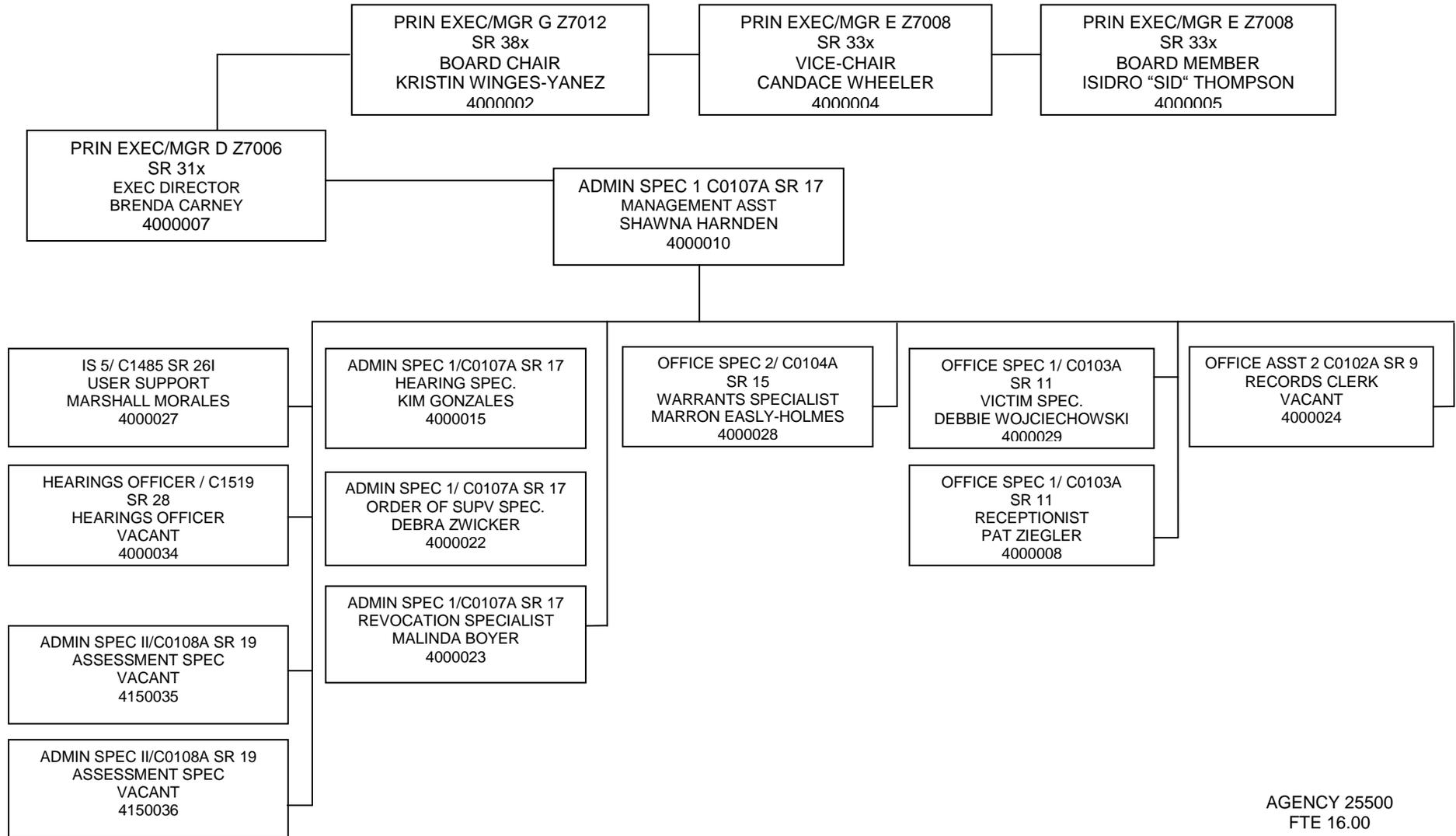
C. Governor’s Policy Advisor for Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision

Governor’s Public Safety Policy Advisor, Heidi Moawad (503) 986-6550

D. Affirmative Action Representative

Executive Director, Brenda Carney
Oregon Board of Parole & Post-Prison Supervision
2575 Center Street NE, Suite 100
Salem, Oregon 97301
(503) 945-0919
www.oregon.gov/boppps

OREGON BOARD OF PAROLE AND POST-PRISON SUPERVISION 2013-2015 GOVERNOR'S BALANCED BUDGET ORGANIZATION CHART



AGENCY 25500
FTE 16.00

II. Affirmative Action Plan

A. Agency Affirmative Action Policy Statement:

The Board is committed to a program of affirmative action for fair and equal opportunity regardless of race, creed, color, natural origin, sexual orientation, age, marital status, veteran status, or the presence of any sensory or physical disability.

Board management actively works to create and promote a work environment that is free of sexual advances, sexual or racial harassment or discrimination of any type. It is the Board's policy to investigate any complaint alleging discrimination immediately and to take action to resolve the issue. The Board acknowledges the right of a complainant to file formal charges with appropriate agencies, both state and federal. No employee will be retaliated and/or discriminated against in any manner because the person opposed discrimination or filed a complaint.

This policy is enforced through full commitment to adhering to all applicable laws, rules and procedures of the Oregon Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision, the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, the State of Oregon and the federal government.

Staff receives updated copies of this report and understands their rights to file complaints of discrimination and harassment. These would be fairly investigated and resolved by the agency Affirmative Action Representative (AAR) according to State of Oregon policy, with assistance and guidance available from the Human Resources Division of the Oregon Department of Corrections and the Department of Administrative Services. The AAR is responsible for disseminating the policy to all employees by hard copy or e-mail, and through access to the original file on the agency shared computer drive. The AAR will be accountable to report annually to the Board Chairperson any increase in discrimination or harassment claims and for carrying out the plan.

If an employee is not satisfied with the complaint process within the agency and wishes to appeal to an agency decisions may contact one of the organization listed below. Nothing in this policy prevents any person from filing a grievance in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement or a formal complaint with the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) or Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). However, some collective bargaining agreements may require an employee to choose between the complaint procedure outline in the agency's guideline for filing a BOLI or EEOC complaint.

Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries - Civil Rights Division

800 NE Oregon St., Suite 1045

Portland 97232

Phone: 971-673-0764

Fax: 971-673-0765

<http://www.oregon.gov/boli/CRD>

Governor's Affirmative Action Office

255 Capitol Street, NE, Suite 126

Salem, OR 97301

Phone: 503-986-6524

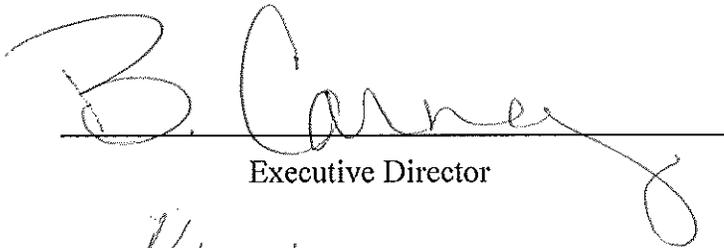
Fax: 503-378-3225

TTY: 503-373-1087

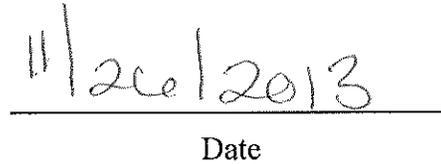
Website: <http://www.oregon.gov/gov/GovAA>

B. Agency Diversity & Inclusion Statement

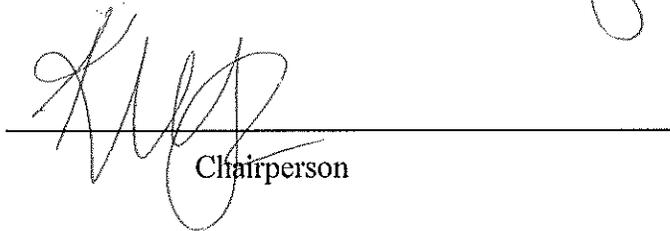
The Board remains committed to its policy on affirmative action and equal opportunity and to a rigorous and active affirmative action program. Our personal commitment to these ideas is represented in the Affirmative Action Plan ("the Plan). Likewise, the Plan represents the Board's commitment to equal opportunity and affirmative action in employment and public service, consistent with all applicable federal and state laws, including, but not limited to: Executive Order 11246; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974; the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act; and the Americans with Disabilities Act. This Affirmative Action Plan has our complete authorization and commitment.



Executive Director



Date



Chairperson



Date

If you have any questions regarding the agency's Affirmative Action Plan please contact the Affirmative Action Representative listed below.

Brenda Carney, Affirmative Action Representative
Oregon Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision
(503) 945-0919
Brenda.K.Carney@doc.state.or.us

C. Training, Education and Development Plan and Schedule:

1. **Employees:** The Board encourages all staff to identify and participate in training to develop their skills in order to compete successfully for other career opportunities inside and outside the agency. The Executive Director actively seeks training opportunities for all staff members and schedules their attendance accordingly. Board sponsorship for fees or tuition is allowed as funds are available. There is also the option of receiving time off with pay or a flexible work schedule in order to participate in training. The Board conducts staff trainings during monthly staff and Board business meetings. Affirmative action updates are circulated to staff as they become available. Plans are available to all employees and updated as needed.
 - The small size of the agency and the highly specialized technical nature of the positions require extensive internal education, coaching and cross-training; all employees have the opportunity to pursue advancement both within existing positions and in preparation for moving to other positions within the agency or to our sister agency, the Department of Corrections.
2. **Volunteers:** The Board has no volunteers. However, if volunteers are sought, the Executive Director would require that volunteers review the agency affirmative action policy, workplace expectations and complaint procedures.
3. **Contractors/Vendors:** The Board awarded seven personal services contracts during the 2011-13 biennium for the purpose of conducting inmate/offender evaluations at the request of the Board. The Board posts all competitive contracts on the State's ORPIN system to ensure that the pool of responders is as varied as possible. Qualified women- and minority-owned businesses are selected when available.

D. Programs:

1. **Internship Programs:** The Board does not have any internship programs.
2. **Community Outreach:** The Board has no independent community outreach program in regard to employment recruitment, but does participate with the Department of Corrections in providing announcements and information.
3. **Diversity Awareness Program:** The Board does not have a diversity awareness program; however, elements of such a program are informally in place, including self-evaluation, communication training, cultural awareness and celebrations of diversity, as well as existing policies and practices that are inclusive and welcoming of all. The Board posts and shares the Governor's diversity proclamations with staff and board members.

E. Update: Executive Order 08-18

1. **Cultural Competency Assessment and Implementation Services:** Due to the size of the agency (16 FTE), the agency has not requested nor received a Cultural Competency Assessment in the 13-15 biennium.

2. **Statewide Exit Interview Survey:** The Board will run periodic reports to review the results collected and perform a data analysis. The data analysis will provide an understanding of how much of the voluntary turnover is preventable and how much is non-preventable. This data represents an essential piece of information that is fundamental in the data analysis. If the analysis identifies a negative opinion regarding the agency's workplace environment, the Board will use this information as an opportunity to make changes to improve the work environment for the current employees, and improve job satisfaction.

Note: The Board is utilizing the Statewide Exit Interview Survey; however, there is so little turnover in personnel, and the last few employees who have left the agency opted to not complete the survey. Therefore, the Board does not have any data to reflect a trend analysis or positive / negative results.

3. **Performance Evaluations of All Management Personnel:** Currently, the Board has one permanent management position, the Executive Director. In July, 2012, the agency appointed Administrative Specialist, Shawna Harnden as Supervising Executive Assistant. This is a temp out-of-class assignment.

E. Status of Contracts to Minority Businesses (Ors 659A.015)

Fourteen percent of all contracts were awarded to minority-owned businesses.

III. Roles for Implementation of Affirmative Action Plan

A. Responsibilities and Accountabilities

1. **Director/Administrators:** The Chairperson of the Board has overall responsibility for Board compliance with policy and achievement of the affirmative action goals to which the Board is committed, and will provide leadership to management, monitor progress toward meeting goals and objectives, and ensure compliance with applicable federal and state laws, rules, regulations and executive orders.
2. **Managers and Supervisors:** The Executive Director is accountable to the Chairperson for carrying out the Affirmative Action Plan. The Executive Director is measured on affirmative action efforts and compliance with the agency's policy. The Executive Director serves as the agency Affirmative Action Representative and is responsible for investigating or addressing any claims or concerns from employees. The Executive Director is involved in a number of efforts, including affirmative action workshop meetings, trainings and orientations, as well as serving as the agency's liaison to the State/Tribal Summit meetings and public safety cluster liaison. The Supervising Executive Assistant supports the Board's efforts to comply with the agency's policy, and may assist the Executive Director with the abovementioned responsibilities.
3. **Affirmative Action Representative:** The Board's Affirmative Action Representative is responsible for:
 - a) Disseminating affirmative action information through orientation, training and management consultation;
 - b) Coordinating activities to implement the Affirmative Action Plan;
 - c) Monitoring progress toward affirmative action goals.
 - d) Coordinating the development and communication of agency-wide policies and procedures related to AA/EEO.
 - e) Identify opportunities for mentoring, training and developmental assignments to assist qualified minorities, women and disabled persons to increase their job skills and advance their careers.
 - f) Developing or contracting for training for staff on AA/EEO issues, workplace harassment and cultural competence.
 - g) Assuring the agency recruitment efforts are carried out in compliance with AA and EEO goals, and assisting with efforts to meet affirmative action recruitment and promotion of people of color, people with disabilities, women and those under the protected classes.
 - h) Investigate/address complaints, conduct affirmative action information sessions for staff, and oversee and participate in related activities for staff, including members of protected groups. This oversight and participation happens through staff meetings, trainings, e-mail and other activities, including work/social events.
 - i) Because the AAR is the Executive Director, s/he has the authority, resources and support of top management in the enforcement, refinement or reshaping of the plan.
 - j) The AAR/Executive Director is accountable to the Board Chairperson for the results of affirmative action goals and objectives.

IV. July 1, 2010 -- June 31, 2012

A. Accomplishments

The agency is composed of 14 FTE, including the three Board members. The Board has minorities and women represented in several EEO job categories utilized by the agency. Total representation by women is 86 percent.

The Board utilized State of Oregon Department of Administrative Services training materials in the 2010-12 biennium for the training of Board Members and staff on AA/EEO issues, workplace harassment and cultural competence.

B. Progress Made or Lost Since Previous Biennium

1. Changes in the number of protected classes since the last biennium.
 - People of Color: Unchanged
 - People with Disabilities: Unchanged
 - Women: Unchanged

2. The Board participated in affirmative action workgroups as time permitted, and shared information sent out by the workgroup with all staff. This was well received by staff and is viewed as part of our overall retention efforts. The Board is committed to fulfilling its affirmative action requirements. For all position openings, it recruits through our sister agency the Department of Corrections, which provides announcements to DAS and to protected class applicants with a goal of increasing employment of disabled and people of color. Applicants certified as severely disabled receive a copy of the position description, describing the essential functions of the position. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities are made upon request.

The Board has a comprehensive retention “strategy” in the fair and respectful treatment of all employees, applicants, and other stakeholders. Employees feel valued and respected as an individual and as a member of the agency team. This is one of the great strengths of the Board. Our low turnover rate has been a blessing, as staff have grown and developed as part of the team.

The Board did not identify generations of employees within the agency, but has identified no challenges related to staffing, including recruitment, retention or promotion. All promotional opportunities are monitored for equal access.

The Board did not directly participate in any job fairs in the last biennium, but did provide materials and announcements to its sister agency, Department of Corrections, which assists the Board in all recruitment efforts.

V. July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2015

A. Goals for the Board's Affirmative Action Plan:

In the 2013-15 biennium, the Board will pursue the following goals and strategies:

1. Maintain the Board's commitment to affirmative action through the continued development and adherence to its Affirmative Action Plan.
 - **Strategy**
 - a) Evaluate and revise policies and procedures as needed to promote the Board's commitment to affirmative action and equal employment opportunity.
 - b) Recruit qualified persons with disabilities, minorities, women and other protected classes for position/volunteer vacancies.
 - c) Promote qualified people of color, people with disabilities, women and other protected classes.

2. Continue dialogue among staff and board members to foster understanding and support for the Board's commitment to affirmative action.
 - **Strategy**
 - a) Increase staff and board member knowledge and awareness of affirmative action through review and discussion of the Affirmative Action Plan.
 - b) Train and inform managers and employees as to their rights and responsibilities under the Board's affirmative action policy.
 - c) Make the complete Affirmative Action Plan available and accessible to all Board members, employees, and contractors.
 - d) Continue to provide resources for employees to encourage their career development in state services, as is reasonably practicable to do so. To accomplish this mission, the Board may provide opportunities for training to employees for developing proficiency, enhancing skills and encouraging development in areas for potential advancement. Staff shall be eligible for mandated and required training and these suggestions are frequently discussed during performance reviews to meet individual goals for upcoming year. Suggested training opportunities will be considered by management for approval.

3. Evaluate and improve, if necessary, recruitment methods to increase ethnic diversity among Board members as vacancies occur.
 - **Strategy**
 - a) Recommend qualified women, minority and disabled candidates to the Governor's Office for Board member vacancies.

4. Increase knowledge and skills of the Board's management staff in applying affirmative action and EEO principles and in promoting a diverse workforce environment.
 - **Strategy**
 - a) Ensure managers understand the Board's affirmative action goals and responsibilities and assert their role in achieving these goals.
 - b) Support managers' knowledge and attendance at equal opportunity, affirmative action, and other diversity-related activities or training activities.
 - c) Maintain management performance appraisal reviews used to evaluate managers on their effectiveness in achieving affirmative action objectives.

- d) Enforce performance evaluation of the management/supervisory personnel on achieving affirmative action objectives through annual report to the Board Chairperson, including participation in workgroup activities as time permits.
- e) Board staff play a key role in carrying out the Board's affirmative action policy, creating a welcoming environment, achieving goals and timelines, and ensuring staff are able to effectively interact in a professional, respectful manner that values all backgrounds and cultures.
- f) All staff are encouraged to participate in mentoring programs, regardless of protected class status or level of representation in the agency. All staff are eligible for temporary job rotations/developmentals, and preparation for permanent job assignments. Tools and resources offered include formal training, and coaching and mentoring, in addition to hands-on job skills training. An employee unsuccessful in achieving a permanent assignment through a job rotation would be encouraged to continue to set and pursue personal and professional goals with the same level of support as outlined above.

VI. APPENDIX A

A. Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision Agency Policy Documentation

1. ADA and Reasonable Accommodation Policy

It is the policy of the Oregon Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision (Board) to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities. The Board shall make reasonable accommodations to the known physical or mental limitations of a participating member of the public, a consumer of agency services, or an agency job applicant or employee, unless to do so would create an undue hardship on the agency, as provided under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Board will make every effort to furnish appropriate and necessary auxiliary aids to ensure that individuals with disabilities will have equal opportunities to participate in activities and to receive program services.

In compliance with ADA guidelines, the Board will provide special materials, services or assistance to individuals with a disability upon sufficient notice to the board office. The Oregon Relay Service – 711 – is available to assist individuals with speech or hearing disabilities. In addition, the Speech to Speech Relay Service supplies Oregon with a toll-free number (1-877-735-7525) to assist individuals whose speech may be difficult to understand. If an individual does not request an accommodation, the Board is not obligated to provide one.

No employee of the Board nor any entity contracting with it may coerce, intimidate, threaten, or interfere with any individual who has opposed any act or practice prohibited by the ADA; participated in any investigation; or aided or encouraged others to assert rights granted under the ADA.

An individual who believes they have been discriminated due to their disability should contact the ADA Coordinator, Board Chairperson, or Executive Director. If the issue is not resolved to the individual's satisfaction, they may file a grievance with the:

- U.S. Dept of Justice Civil Rights Division – PO Box 6618, Washington, D.C., 20530
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission – 1801 L. St. NW #9024, Washington, D.C. 20507

2. Discrimination and Harassment Free Workplace

The Board follows the prescribed policy guidelines implemented by the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (50.010.01):

The State of Oregon is committed to a discrimination and harassment free work environment. This policy outlines types of prohibited conduct and procedures for reporting and investigating prohibited conduct.

(a) Discrimination, Workplace Harassment and Sexual Harassment. The State of Oregon provides a work environment free from unlawful discrimination or workplace harassment based on or because of an employee's protected class status. Additionally, the state of Oregon provides a work environment free from sexual harassment. Employees at every level of the organization, including state temporary employees and volunteers, must conduct themselves in a business-like and professional manner at all times and not engage in any form of discrimination, workplace harassment or sexual harassment.

(b) Higher Standard. Managers/supervisors are held to a higher standard and are expected to take a proactive stance to ensure the integrity of the work environment. Managers/supervisors must exercise reasonable care to prevent and promptly correct any discrimination, workplace harassment or sexual harassment they know about or should know about.

(c) Reporting. Anyone who is subject to or aware of what he or she believes to be discrimination, workplace harassment, or sexual harassment should report that behavior to the employee's immediate supervisor, another manager, or the agency, board, or commission Human Resource section, Executive Director, or chair, as applicable. A report of discrimination, workplace harassment or sexual harassment is considered a complaint. A supervisor or manager receiving a complaint should promptly notify the Human Resource section, Executive Director, or chair, as applicable.

(A) A complaint may be made orally or in writing.

(B) A complaint must be filed within one year of the occurrence.

(C) An oral or written complaint should contain the following:

(i) the name of the person filing the report;

(ii) the name of the complainant;

(iii) the names of all parties involved, including witnesses;

(iv) a specific and detailed description of the conduct or action that the employee believes is discriminatory or harassing;

(v) the date or time period in which the alleged conduct occurred;
and

(vi) a description of the remedy the employee desires.

(d) Other Reporting Options. Nothing in this policy prevents any person from filing a formal grievance in accordance with a CBA, or a formal complaint with the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) **or if applicable, the United States Department of Labor**

(USDOL) Civil Rights Center. However, some CBAs require an employee to choose between the complaint procedure outlined in the CBA and filing a BOLI or EEOC complaint.

(e) Filing a Report with the USDOL Civil Rights Center. An employee whose position is funded by the Oregon Workforce Investment Act (WIA), such as employees of the Oregon Workforce One-stop System, may file a complaint under the WIA, Methods of Administration (MOA) with the State of Oregon WIA, MOA Equal Opportunity Officer or directly through the USDOL, Civil Rights Center. The complaint must be written, signed and filed within 180 days of when the alleged discrimination or harassment occurred.

(f) Investigation. The agency, board, or commission Human Resource section, Executive Director, or chair, as applicable, will coordinate and conduct or delegate responsibility for coordinating and conducting an investigation.

(A) All complaints will be taken seriously and an investigation will be initiated as quickly as possible.

(B) The agency, board or commission may need to take steps to ensure employees are protected from further potential discrimination or harassment.

(C) Complaints will be dealt with in a discreet and confidential manner, to the extent possible.

(D) All parties are expected to cooperate with the investigation and keep information regarding the investigation confidential.

(E) The agency, board or commission will notify the accused and all witnesses that retaliating against a person for making a report of discrimination, workplace harassment or sexual harassment will not be

tolerated.

(F) The agency, board or commission will notify the complainant and the accused when the investigation is concluded.

(G) Immediate and appropriate action will be taken if a complaint is substantiated.

(H) The agency, board or commission will inform the complainant if any part of a complaint is substantiated and that action has been taken. The complainant will not be given the specifics of the action.

(I) The complainant and the accused will be notified by the agency, board or commission if a complaint is not substantiated.

(g) Penalties. Conduct in violation of this policy will not be tolerated.

(A) Employees engaging in conduct in violation of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

(B) State temporary employees and volunteers who engage in conduct in violation of this policy may be subject to termination of their working or volunteer relationship with the agency, board or commission.

(C) An agency, board or commission may be liable for discrimination, workplace harassment or sexual harassment if it knows of or should know of conduct in violation of this policy and fails to take prompt, appropriate action.

(D) Managers and supervisors who know or should know of conduct in violation of this policy and who fail to report such behavior or fail to take prompt, appropriate action may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

(E) An employee who engages in harassment of other employees while away from the workplace and outside of working hours may be subject to the provisions of this policy if that conduct has a negative impact on the work environment and/or working relationships.

(F) If a complaint involves the conduct of a contracted employee or a contractor, the agency, board, or commission Human Resource section, Executive Director, chair, or designee must inform the contractor of the problem behavior and require prompt, appropriate action.

(G) If a complaint involves the conduct of a client, customer, or visitor, the agency, board or commission should follow its own internal procedures and take prompt, appropriate action.

(h) Retaliation. This policy prohibits retaliation against employees who file a complaint, participate in an investigation, or report observing discrimination, workplace harassment or sexual harassment.

(A) Employees who believe they have been retaliated against because they filed a complaint, participated in an investigation, or reported observing discrimination, workplace harassment or sexual harassment, should report this behavior to the employee's supervisor, another manager, the Human Resource section, the Executive Director, or the chair, as applicable. Complaints of retaliation will be investigated promptly.

(B) Employees who violate this policy by retaliating against others may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

(C) State temporary employees and volunteers who retaliate against others may be subject to termination of their working or volunteer relationship with the agency, board or commission.

(i) Policy Notification. All employees including state temporary employees and volunteers shall:

- (A) be given a copy or the location of Statewide Policy 50.010.01, Discrimination and Harassment Free Workplace;
- (B) be given directions to read the policy;
- (C) be provided an opportunity to ask questions and have their questions answered; and
- (D) sign an acknowledgement indicating the employee read the policy and had the opportunity to ask questions.
 - (i) Signed acknowledgements are kept on file at the agency, board or commission.

3. Employee and Training Policy

The Board follows the prescribed policy guidelines implemented by the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC Policy: 20.7.1):

A. The department is responsible to provide within budgeted resources an employee training and development plan and program that meets the training policy requirements and current department training priorities.

B. The department will establish and maintain a Training Advisory Committee (TAC) to provide PDU with consultation and advice on training delivery modes, training standards, and employee development programs. The TAC shall consist of members representing the various divisions and representation from both management and represented staff. The members must be recommended by the functional unit manager, and approved by their division Assistant Director. The membership will include a labor representative from AOCE, AFSCME and AFSCME Security Plus. The committee shall meet at least quarterly.

C. All training curriculum will be developed and approved utilizing the New Course Application form (CD 1602).

D. All approved training will be recorded and maintained in the LMS.

E. All requests from department personnel for intermediate or advanced DPSST certification shall be submitted (Form F-7) to the Professional Development Unit for forwarding to DPSST.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

A. The department is responsible to provide within budgeted resources an employee training and development plan and program that meets certification requirements and current department training priorities.

B. Basic Correction Course (BCC): A comprehensive program that prepares Correctional Officers to perform their duties and receive State Correctional Officer Certification (DPSST) within the context of the Mission, Vision, Values and goals of the department as defined in DOC Policy 20.7.2.

C. New Employee Orientation (NEO): A program that provides new employees, volunteers, and contractors with basic understanding of the department's expectations of employee conduct,

with a focus on the department's mission, rules, policies, regulatory requirements, and procedures. All employees shall attend NEO within the first 3 months of their hire date. NEO is delivered in conjunction with the first two weeks of the BCC program.
Effective 1/1/13 Page 3 of 3 DOC Policy 20.7.1

D. Annual Training: All permanent employees, full time contractors, and OCE employees shall participate in the amount and topic(s) of agency approved training annually. It is recommended that part-time contractor's attend corrections related training annually. Annual training may be offered as classroom, online, or blended training events.

E. Leadership and Professional Development: Programs designed to prepare employees with the knowledge, skills, and work experiences necessary for professional growth and career advancement. These programs will meet the requirements of DPSST Supervision and Management Certifications per OAR 259-008-0000.

F. Employees, volunteers and contractors are expected to give full attention and participation in all department training and development programs they attend. Participants are expected to dress in compliance with policy 20.1.6 Dress Code, conduct themselves in a professional manner and satisfactorily complete all required program or course elements in order to receive credit for training.

4. Veterans Preference in Employment

The Board follows the prescribed policy guidelines implemented by the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (OAR 105-040-0015):

(1) Definitions: (See also HRSD Rule 105-010-0000 Definitions Applicable Generally to Personnel Rules and Policies.)

(a) Initial Application Screening: An agency's process of determining whether an applicant meets the minimum and special qualifications for a position. An Initial Application Screening may also include an evaluation of skills or grading of supplemental test questions if required on the recruiting announcement.

(b) Application Examination: The selection process utilized by an agency after Initial Application Screening. This selection process includes, but is not limited to, formal testing or other assessments resulting in a score as well as un-scored examinations such as interviews and reference checks.

(c) Veteran and Disabled Veteran: As defined by ORS 408.225 and 408.235.

(2) Application of preference points upon Initial Application Screening: Qualifying Veterans and Disabled Veterans receive preference points as follows;

(a) Five Veteran's Preference points are added upon Initial Application Screening when an applicant submits as verification of eligibility a copy of the Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214 or 215), or a letter from the US Department of Veteran's Affairs indicating the applicant receives a non-service connected pension with the State of Oregon Application; or

(b) Ten Disabled Veteran's points are added upon Initial Application Screening when an applicant submits as verification of eligibility a copy of the Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214 or 215) with the State of Oregon Application. Disabled Veterans must also submit a copy of their Veteran's disability preference letter from the US Department of Veteran Affairs, unless the information is included in the DD Form 214 or 215.

- (c) Veteran's and Disabled Veteran's preference points are not added when a Veteran or Disabled Veteran fails to meet the minimum or the special qualifications for a position.
- (3) Following an Initial Application Screening the agency generates a list of qualified applicants to consider for Appointment. An Appointing Authority or designee may then:
- (a) Determine whether or not to interview all applicants who meet the minimum and special qualifications of the position (including all Veterans and Disabled Veterans); or
 - (b) Select a group of Veteran and Disabled Veteran applicants who most closely match the agency's purposes in filling the position. This group of applicants may be considered along with non-veteran applicants who closely match the purposes of the agency in filling the position as determined by:
 - (A) Scored Application Examinations (including scored interviews): If an agency utilizes, after an Initial Application Screening, a scored Application Examination to determine whom to consider further for Appointment, the agency will add (based on a 100-point scale) five points to a Veteran's score or 10 points to a Disabled Veteran's score or;
 - (B) Un-scored Application Examinations: Un-scored Application Examinations done by sorting into levels (such as "unsatisfactory," "satisfactory," "excellent") based on desired attributes or other criteria for further consideration will be accomplished by:
 - (i) Advancing the application of a Veteran one level;
 - (ii) Advancing an application of a Disabled Veteran two levels.
- (4) Preference in un-scored interviews: A Veteran or Disabled Veteran who, in the judgment of the Appointing Authority or designee, meets all or substantially all of the agency's purposes in filling the position will continue to be considered for Appointment.
- (5) If a Veteran or Disabled Veteran has been determined to be equal to the top applicant or applicants for a position by the Appointing Authority or designee then the Veteran or Disabled Veteran is ranked more highly than non-veteran applicants and, a Disabled Veteran is ranked more highly than non-veteran and Veteran applicants.
- (6) Preference described in Sections 2 through 5 of this rule is not a requirement to appoint a Veteran or Disabled Veteran to a position. An agency may base a decision not to appoint the Veteran or Disabled Veteran solely on the Veteran's or Disabled Veteran's merits or qualifications.
- (7) A Veteran or a Disabled Veteran applicant not appointed to a position may request an explanation from the agency. The request must be in writing and be sent within 30 calendar days of the date the Veteran or Disabled Veteran was notified that they were not selected. The agency will respond in writing with the reasons for not appointing the Veteran or Disabled Veteran.

[ED. NOTE: Forms referenced are available from the agency.]

Stat. Auth: ORS 240.145(3) & 240.250

Stats. Implemented: ORS 408.225, 408.230 & 408.235

Hist.: HRSD 3-2007(Temp), f. & cert ef. 9-5-07 thru 3-3-08; HRSD 1-2008, f. 2-27-08, cert. ef. 3-1-08; HRSD 3-2009, f. 12-30-09, cert. ef. 1-1-10

VII. APPENDIX B

Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA)

The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA) protects individuals who are 40 years of age or older from employment discrimination based on age. The ADEA's protections apply to both employees and job applicants. Under the ADEA, it is unlawful to discriminate against a person because of his/her age with respect to any term, condition, or privilege of employment, including hiring, firing, promotion, layoff, compensation, benefits, job assignments, and training. The ADEA permits employers to favor older workers based on age even when doing so adversely affects a younger worker who is 40 or older.

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

The ADEA applies to employers with 20 or more employees, including state and local governments. It also applies to employment agencies and labor organizations, as well as to the federal government. ADEA protections include:

- **Apprenticeship Programs**

It is generally unlawful for apprenticeship programs, including joint labor-management apprenticeship programs, to discriminate on the basis of an individual's age. Age limitations in apprenticeship programs are valid only if they fall within certain specific exceptions under the ADEA or if the EEOC grants a specific exemption.

- **Job Notices and Advertisements**

The ADEA generally makes it unlawful to include age preferences, limitations, or specifications in job notices or advertisements. A job notice or advertisement may specify an age limit only in the rare circumstances where age is shown to be a "bona fide occupational qualification" (BFOQ) reasonably necessary to the normal operation of the business.

- **Pre-Employment Inquiries**

The ADEA does not specifically prohibit an employer from asking an applicant's age or date of birth. However, because such inquiries may deter older workers from applying for employment or may otherwise indicate possible intent to discriminate based on age, requests for age information will be closely scrutinized to make sure that the inquiry was made for a lawful purpose, rather than for a purpose prohibited by the ADEA. If the information is needed for a lawful purpose, it can be obtained after the employee is hired.

- **Benefits**

The Older Workers Benefit Protection Act of 1990 (OWBPA) amended the ADEA to specifically prohibit employers from denying benefits to older employees. Congress recognized that the cost of providing certain benefits to older workers is greater than the cost of providing those same benefits to younger workers, and that those greater costs might create a disincentive to hire older workers. Therefore, in limited circumstances, an employer may be permitted to reduce benefits based on age, as long as the cost of providing the reduced benefits to older workers is no less than the cost of providing benefits to younger workers.

Employers are permitted to coordinate retiree health benefit plans with eligibility for Medicare or a comparable state-sponsored health benefit.

- **Waivers of ADEA Rights**

An employer may ask an employee to waive his/her rights or claims under the ADEA. Such waivers are common in settling ADEA discrimination claims or in connection with exit incentive or other employment termination programs. However, the ADEA, as amended by OWBPA, sets out specific minimum standards that must be met in order for a waiver to be considered knowing and voluntary and, therefore, valid. Among other requirements, a valid ADEA waiver must:

- be in writing and be understandable;
- specifically refer to ADEA rights or claims;
- not waive rights or claims that may arise in the future;
- be in exchange for valuable consideration in addition to anything of value to which the individual already is entitled;
- advise the individual in writing to consult an attorney before signing the waiver; and
- provide the individual at least 21 days to consider the agreement and at least seven days to revoke the agreement after signing it.

If an employer requests an ADEA waiver in connection with an exit incentive or other employment termination program, the minimum requirements for a valid waiver are more extensive. *See* "Understanding Waivers of Discrimination Claims in Employee Severance Agreements" at http://www.eeoc.gov/policy/docs/qanda_severance-agreements.html

TITLE I OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990

Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 prohibits private employers, state and local governments, employment agencies and labor unions from discriminating against qualified individuals with disabilities in job application procedures, hiring, firing, advancement, compensation, job training, and other terms, conditions, and privileges of employment. The ADA covers employers with 15 or more employees, including state and local governments. It also applies to employment agencies and to labor organizations. The ADA's nondiscrimination standards also apply to federal sector employees under section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, and its implementing rules.

An individual with a disability is a person who:

- Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;
- Has a record of such an impairment; or
- Is regarded as having such an impairment.
- A qualified employee or applicant with a disability is an individual who, with or without reasonable accommodation, can perform the essential functions of the job in question. Reasonable accommodation may include, but is not limited to:
 - Making existing facilities used by employees readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.
 - Job restructuring, modifying work schedules, reassignment to a vacant position;
 - Acquiring or modifying equipment or devices, adjusting or modifying examinations, training materials, or policies, and providing qualified readers or interpreters.

An employer is required to make a reasonable accommodation to the known disability of a qualified applicant or employee if it would not impose an "undue hardship" on the operation of the employer's business. Reasonable accommodations are adjustments or modifications provided by an employer to enable people with disabilities to enjoy equal employment opportunities.

Accommodations vary depending upon the needs of the individual applicant or employee. Not all people with disabilities (or even all people with the same disability) will require the same accommodation. For example:

- A deaf applicant may need a sign language interpreter during the job interview.
- An employee with diabetes may need regularly scheduled breaks during the workday to eat properly and monitor blood sugar and insulin levels.
- A blind employee may need someone to read information posted on a bulletin board.
- An employee with cancer may need leave to have radiation or chemotherapy treatments.

An employer does not have to provide a reasonable accommodation if it imposes an "undue hardship." Undue hardship is defined as an action requiring significant difficulty or expense when considered in light of factors such as an employer's size, financial resources, and the nature and structure of its operation.

An employer is not required to lower quality or production standards to make an accommodation; nor is an employer obligated to provide personal use items such as glasses or hearing aids.

An employer generally does not have to provide a reasonable accommodation unless an individual with a disability has asked for one. If an employer believes that a medical condition is causing a

performance or conduct problem, it may ask the employee how to solve the problem and if the employee needs a reasonable accommodation. Once a reasonable accommodation is requested, the employer and the individual should discuss the individual's needs and identify the appropriate reasonable accommodation. Where more than one accommodation would work, the employer may choose the one that is less costly or that is easier to provide.

Title I of the ADA also covers:

- **Medical Examinations and Inquiries**
Employers may not ask job applicants about the existence, nature, or severity of a disability. Applicants may be asked about their ability to perform specific job functions. A job offer may be conditioned on the results of a medical examination, but only if the examination is required for all entering employees in similar jobs. Medical examinations of employees must be job related and consistent with the employer's business needs.

Medical records are confidential. The basic rule is that with limited exceptions, employers must keep confidential any medical information they learn about an applicant or employee. Information can be confidential even if it contains no medical diagnosis or treatment course and even if it is not generated by a health care professional. For example, an employee's request for a reasonable accommodation would be considered medical information subject to the ADA's confidentiality requirements.

- **Drug and Alcohol Abuse**
Employees and applicants currently engaging in the illegal use of drugs are not covered by the ADA when an employer acts on the basis of such use. Tests for illegal drugs are not subject to the ADA's restrictions on medical examinations. Employers may hold illegal drug users and alcoholics to the same performance standards as other employees.

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

Federal Tax Incentives to Encourage the Employment of People with Disabilities and to Promote the Accessibility of Public Accommodations

The Internal Revenue Code includes several provisions aimed at making businesses more accessible to people with disabilities. The following provides general – non-legal – information about three of the most significant tax incentives. (Employers should check with their accountants or tax advisors to determine eligibility for these incentives or visit the Internal Revenue Service's website, www.irs.gov, for more information. Similar state and local tax incentives may be available.)

- **Small Business Tax Credit (Internal Revenue Code Section 44: Disabled Access Credit)**
Small businesses with either \$1,000,000 or less in revenue or 30 or fewer full-time employees may take a tax credit of up to \$5,000 annually for the cost of providing reasonable accommodations such as sign language interpreters, readers, materials in alternative format (such as Braille or large print), the purchase of adaptive equipment, the modification of existing equipment, or the removal of architectural barriers.

- **Work Opportunity Tax Credit (Internal Revenue Code Section 51)**
Employers who hire certain targeted low-income groups, including individuals referred from vocational rehabilitation agencies and individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) may be eligible for an annual tax credit of up to \$2,400 for each qualifying employee who works at least 400 hours during the tax year. Additionally, a maximum credit of \$1,200 may be available for each qualifying summer youth employee.
- **Architectural/Transportation Tax Deduction (Internal Revenue Code Section 190 Barrier Removal):**
This annual deduction of up to \$15,000 is available to businesses of any size for the costs of removing barriers for people with disabilities, including the following: providing accessible parking spaces, ramps, and curb cuts; providing wheelchair-accessible telephones, water fountains, and restrooms; making walkways at least 48 inches wide; and making entrances accessible.

Disability Discrimination

Disability discrimination occurs when an employer or other entity covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, or the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, treats a qualified individual with a disability who is an employee or applicant unfavorably because she has a disability.

Disability discrimination also occurs when a covered employer or other entity treats an applicant or employee less favorably because she has a history of a disability (such as cancer that is controlled or in remission) or because she is believed to have a physical or mental impairment that is not transitory (lasting or expected to last six months or less) and minor (even if she does not have such an impairment).

The law requires an employer to provide reasonable accommodation to an employee or job applicant with a disability, unless doing so would cause significant difficulty or expense for the employer ("undue hardship").

The law also protects people from discrimination based on their relationship with a person with a disability (even if they do not themselves have a disability). For example, it is illegal to discriminate against an employee because her husband has a disability.

Note: Federal employees and applicants are covered by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, instead of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The protections are mostly the same.

Disability Discrimination & Work Situations

The law forbids discrimination when it comes to any aspect of employment, including hiring, firing, pay, job assignments, promotions, layoff, training, fringe benefits, and any other term or condition of employment.

Disability Discrimination & Harassment

It is illegal to harass an applicant or employee because he has a disability, had a disability in the past, or is believed to have a physical or mental impairment that is not transitory (lasting or expected to last six months or less) and minor (even if he does not have such an impairment). Harassment can include, for example, offensive remarks about a person's disability. Although the law doesn't prohibit simple teasing, offhand comments, or isolated incidents that aren't very serious,

harassment is illegal when it is so frequent or severe that it creates a hostile or offensive work environment or when it results in an adverse employment decision (such as the victim being fired or demoted).

The harasser can be the victim's supervisor, a supervisor in another area, a co-worker, or someone who is not an employee of the employer, such as a client or customer.

Disability Discrimination & Reasonable Accommodation

The law requires an employer to provide reasonable accommodation to an employee or job applicant with a disability, unless doing so would cause significant difficulty or expense for the employer.

A reasonable accommodation is any change in the work environment (or in the way things are usually done) to help a person with a disability apply for a job, perform the duties of a job, or enjoy the benefits and privileges of employment.

Reasonable accommodation might include, for example, making the workplace accessible for wheelchair users or providing a reader or interpreter for someone who is blind or hearing impaired.

While the federal anti-discrimination laws don't require an employer to accommodate an employee who must care for a disabled family member, the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) may require an employer to take such steps. The Department of Labor enforces the FMLA. For more information, call: 1-866-487-9243.

Disability Discrimination & Reasonable Accommodation & Undue Hardship

An employer doesn't have to provide an accommodation if doing so would cause undue hardship to the employer.

Undue hardship means that the accommodation would be too difficult or too expensive to provide, in light of the employer's size, financial resources, and the needs of the business. An employer may not refuse to provide an accommodation just because it involves some cost. An employer does not have to provide the exact accommodation the employee or job applicant wants. If more than one accommodation works, the employer may choose which one to provide.

Definition Of Disability

Not everyone with a medical condition is protected by the law. In order to be protected, a person must be qualified for the job and have a disability as defined by the law.

A person can show that he or she has a disability in one of three ways:

- A person may be disabled if he or she has a physical or mental condition that substantially limits a major life activity (such as walking, talking, seeing, hearing, or learning).
- A person may be disabled if he or she has a history of a disability (such as cancer that is in remission).
- A person may be disabled if he is believed to have a physical or mental impairment that is not transitory (lasting or expected to last six months or less) and minor (even if he does not have such an impairment).

Disability & Medical Exams During Employment Application & Interview Stage

The law places strict limits on employers when it comes to asking job applicants to answer medical questions, take a medical exam, or identify a disability.

For example, an employer may not ask a job applicant to answer medical questions or take a medical exam before extending a job offer. An employer also may not ask job applicants if they have a disability (or about the nature of an obvious disability). An employer may ask job applicants whether they can perform the job and how they would perform the job, with or without a reasonable accommodation.

Disability & Medical Exams After A Job Offer For Employment

After a job is offered to an applicant, the law allows an employer to condition the job offer on the applicant answering certain medical questions or successfully passing a medical exam, but only if all new employees in the same type of job have to answer the questions or take the exam.

Disability & Medical Exams For Persons Who Have Started Working As Employees

Once a person is hired and has started work, an employer generally can only ask medical questions or require a medical exam if the employer needs medical documentation to support an employee's request for an accommodation or if the employer believes that an employee is not able to perform a job successfully or safely because of a medical condition.

The law also requires that employers keep all medical records and information confidential and in separate medical files.

Equal Pay and Compensation Discrimination Equal Pay Act of 1963, and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1963

The right of employees to be free from discrimination in their compensation is protected under several federal laws, including the following enforced by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission: the **Equal Pay Act of 1963, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964**, the **Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967**, and **Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**.

The law against compensation discrimination includes all payments made to or on behalf employees as remuneration for employment. All forms of compensation are covered, including salary, overtime pay, bonuses, stock options, profit sharing and bonus plans, life insurance, vacation and holiday pay, cleaning or gasoline allowances, hotel accommodations, reimbursement for travel expenses, and benefits.

Equal Pay Act

The Equal Pay Act requires that men and women be given equal pay for equal work in the same establishment. The jobs need not be identical, but they must be substantially equal. It is job content, not job titles, that determines whether jobs are substantially equal. Specifically, the EPA provides that employers may not pay unequal wages to men and women who perform jobs that require substantially equal skill, effort and responsibility, and that are performed under similar working conditions within the same establishment. Each of these factors is summarized below:

Skill

- Measured by factors such as the experience, ability, education, and training required to perform the job. The issue is what skills are required for the job, not what skills the individual employees may have. For example, two bookkeeping jobs could be considered equal under the EPA even if one of the job holders has a master's degree in physics, since that degree would not be required for the job.

Effort

- The amount of physical or mental exertion needed to perform the job. For example, suppose that men and women work side by side on a line assembling machine parts. The person at the end of the line must also lift the assembled product as he or she completes the work and place it on a board. That job requires more effort than the other assembly line jobs if the extra effort of lifting the assembled product off the line is substantial and is a regular part of the job. As a result, it would not be a violation to pay that person more, regardless of whether the job is held by a man or a woman.

Responsibility

- The degree of accountability required in performing the job. For example, a salesperson who is delegated the duty of determining whether to accept customers' personal checks has more responsibility than other salespeople. On the other hand, a minor difference in responsibility, such as turning out the lights at the end of the day, would not justify a pay differential.

Working Conditions

- This encompasses two factors: (1) physical surroundings like temperature, fumes, and ventilation; and (2) hazards.

Establishment

- The prohibition against compensation discrimination under the EPA applies only to jobs within an establishment. An establishment is a distinct physical place of business rather than an entire business or enterprise consisting of several places of business. In some circumstances, physically separate places of business may be treated as one establishment. For example, if a central administrative unit hires employees, sets their compensation, and assigns them to separate work locations, the separate work sites can be considered part of one establishment.

Pay differentials are permitted when they are based on seniority, merit, quantity or quality of production, or a factor other than sex. These are known as “affirmative defenses” and it is the employer’s burden to prove that they apply.

In correcting a pay differential, no employee’s pay may be reduced. Instead, the pay of the lower paid employee(s) must be increased.

Title VII, ADEA, and ADA

Title VII, the ADEA, and the ADA prohibit compensation discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability. Unlike the EPA, there is no requirement that the claimant’s job be substantially equal to that of a higher paid person outside the claimant’s protected class, nor do these statutes require the claimant to work in the same establishment as a comparator.

Compensation discrimination under Title VII, the ADEA, or the ADA can occur in a variety of forms. For example:

- An employer pays an employee with a disability less than similarly situated employees without disabilities and the employer’s explanation (if any) does not satisfactorily account for the differential.
- An employer sets the compensation for jobs predominately held by, for example, women or African-Americans below that suggested by the employer’s job evaluation study, while the pay for jobs predominately held by men or whites is consistent with the level suggested by the job evaluation study.
- An employer maintains a neutral compensation policy or practice that has an adverse impact on employees in a protected class and cannot be justified as job-related and consistent with business necessity. For example, if an employer provides extra compensation to employees who are the “head of household,” i.e., married with dependents and the primary financial contributor to the household, the practice may have an unlawful disparate impact on women.

It is also unlawful to retaliate against an individual for opposing employment practices that discriminate based on compensation or for filing a discrimination charge, testifying, or participating in any way in an investigation, proceeding, or litigation under Title VII, ADEA, ADA or the Equal Pay Act.

Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA)

Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA), which prohibits genetic information discrimination in employment, took effect on November 21, 2009.

Under Title II of GINA, it is illegal to discriminate against employees or applicants because of genetic information. Title II of GINA prohibits the use of genetic information in making employment decisions, restricts employers and other entities covered by Title II (employment agencies, labor organizations and joint labor-management training and apprenticeship programs - referred to as "covered entities") from requesting, requiring or purchasing genetic information, and strictly limits the disclosure of genetic information.

The EEOC enforces Title II of GINA (dealing with genetic discrimination in employment). The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and the Treasury have responsibility for issuing regulations for Title I of GINA, which addresses the use of genetic information in health insurance.

Definition of "Genetic Information"

Genetic information includes information about an individual's genetic tests and the genetic tests of an individual's family members, as well as information about the manifestation of a disease or disorder in an individual's family members (i.e. family medical history). Family medical history is included in the definition of genetic information because it is often used to determine whether someone has an increased risk of getting a disease, disorder, or condition in the future. Genetic information also includes an individual's request for, or receipt of, genetic services, or the participation in clinical research that includes genetic services by the individual or a family member of the individual, and the genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or by a pregnant woman who is a family member of the individual and the genetic information of any embryo legally held by the individual or family member using an assisted reproductive technology.

Discrimination Because of Genetic Information

The law forbids discrimination on the basis of genetic information when it comes to any aspect of employment, including hiring, firing, pay, job assignments, promotions, layoffs, training, fringe benefits, or any other term or condition of employment. *An employer may never use genetic information to make an employment decision because genetic information is not relevant to an individual's current ability to work.*

Harassment Because of Genetic Information

Under GINA, it is also illegal to harass a person because of his or her genetic information. Harassment can include, for example, making offensive or derogatory remarks about an applicant or employee's genetic information, or about the genetic information of a relative of the applicant or employee. Although the law doesn't prohibit simple teasing, offhand comments, or isolated incidents that are not very serious, harassment is illegal when it is so severe or pervasive that it creates a hostile or offensive work environment or when it results in an adverse employment decision (such as the victim being fired or demoted). The harasser can be the victim's supervisor, a supervisor in another area of the workplace, a co-worker, or someone who is not an employee, such as a client or customer.

Retaliation

Under GINA, it is illegal to fire, demote, harass, or otherwise “retaliate” against an applicant or employee for filing a charge of discrimination, participating in a discrimination proceeding (such as a discrimination investigation or lawsuit), or otherwise opposing discrimination.

Rules Against Acquiring Genetic Information

- It will usually be unlawful for a covered entity to get genetic information. There are six narrow exceptions to this prohibition:
- Inadvertent acquisitions of genetic information do not violate GINA, such as in situations where a manager or supervisor overhears someone talking about a family member’s illness.
- Genetic information (such as family medical history) may be obtained as part of health or genetic services, including wellness programs, offered by the employer on a voluntary basis, if certain specific requirements are met.
- Family medical history may be acquired as part of the certification process for FMLA leave (or leave under similar state or local laws or pursuant to an employer policy), where an employee is asking for leave to care for a family member with a serious health condition.
- Genetic information may be acquired through commercially and publicly available documents like newspapers, as long as the employer is not searching those sources with the intent of finding genetic information or accessing sources from which they are likely to acquire genetic information (such as websites and on-line discussion groups that focus on issues such as genetic testing of individuals and genetic discrimination).
- Genetic information may be acquired through a genetic monitoring program that monitors the biological effects of toxic substances in the workplace where the monitoring is required by law or, under carefully defined conditions, where the program is voluntary.
- Acquisition of genetic information of employees by employers who engage in DNA testing for law enforcement purposes as a forensic lab or for purposes of human remains identification is permitted, but the genetic information may only be used for analysis of DNA markers for quality control to detect sample contamination.

Confidentiality of Genetic Information

It is also unlawful for a covered entity to disclose genetic information about applicants, employees or members. Covered entities must keep genetic information confidential and in a separate medical file. (Genetic information may be kept in the same file as other medical information in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.) There are limited exceptions to this non-disclosure rule, such as exceptions that provide for the disclosure of relevant genetic information to government officials investigating compliance with Title II of GINA and for disclosures made pursuant to a court order.

National Origin Discrimination

National origin discrimination involves treating people (applicants or employees) unfavorably because they are from a particular country or part of the world, because of ethnicity or accent, or because they appear to be of a certain ethnic background (even if they are not).

National origin discrimination also can involve treating people unfavorably because they are married to (or associated with) a person of a certain national origin or because of their connection with an ethnic organization or group.

Discrimination can occur when the victim and the person who inflicted the discrimination are the same national origin.

National Origin Discrimination & Work Situations

The law forbids discrimination when it comes to any aspect of employment, including hiring, firing, pay, job assignments, promotions, layoff, training, fringe benefits, and any other term or condition of employment.

National Origin & Harassment

It is unlawful to harass a person because of his or her national origin. Harassment can include, for example, offensive or derogatory remarks about a person's national origin, accent or ethnicity. Although the law doesn't prohibit simple teasing, offhand comments, or isolated incidents that are not very serious, harassment is illegal when it is so frequent or severe that it creates a hostile or offensive work environment or when it results in an adverse employment decision (such as the victim being fired or demoted).

The harasser can be the victim's supervisor, a supervisor in another area, a co-worker, or someone who is not an employee of the employer, such as a client or customer.

National Origin & Employment Policies/Practices

The law makes it illegal for an employer or other covered entity to use an employment policy or practice that applies to everyone, regardless of national origin, if it has a negative impact on people of a certain national origin and is not job-related or necessary to the operation of the business.

An employer can only require an employee to speak fluent English if fluency in English is necessary to perform the job effectively. An "English-only rule", which requires employees to speak only English on the job, is only allowed if it is needed to ensure the safe or efficient operation of the employer's business and is put in place for nondiscriminatory reasons.

An employer may not base an employment decision on an employee's foreign accent, unless the accent seriously interferes with the employee's job performance.

Citizenship Discrimination & Workplace Laws

The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA) makes it illegal for an employer to discriminate with respect to hiring, firing, or recruitment or referral for a fee, based upon an individual's citizenship or immigration status. The law prohibits employers from hiring only U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents unless required to do so by law, regulation or government contract. Employers may not refuse to accept lawful documentation that establishes the employment eligibility of an employee, or demand additional documentation beyond what is legally required, when verifying employment eligibility (i.e., completing the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Form I-9), based on the employee's national origin or citizenship status.

It is the employee's choice which of the acceptable Form I-9 documents to show to verify employment eligibility.

IRCA also prohibits retaliation against individuals for asserting their rights under the Act, or for filing a charge or assisting in an investigation or proceeding under IRCA.

IRCA's nondiscrimination requirements are enforced by the Department of Justice's Office of Special Counsel for Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices (OSC), Civil Rights Division. OSC may be reached at:

1-800-255-7688 (voice for employees/applicants),

1-800-237-2515 (TTY for employees/applicants),

1-800-255-8155 (voice for employers), or

1-800-362-2735 (TTY for employers), or

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/osc>.

Pregnancy Discrimination

Pregnancy Discrimination

Pregnancy discrimination involves treating a woman (an applicant or employee) unfavorably because of pregnancy, childbirth, or a medical condition related to pregnancy or childbirth.

Pregnancy Discrimination & Work Situations

The Pregnancy Discrimination Act (PDA) forbids discrimination based on pregnancy when it comes to any aspect of employment, including hiring, firing, pay, job assignments, promotions, layoff, training, fringe benefits, such as leave and health insurance, and any other term or condition of employment.

Pregnancy Discrimination & Temporary Disability

If a woman is temporarily unable to perform her job due to a medical condition related to pregnancy or childbirth, the employer or other covered entity must treat her in the same way as it treats any other temporarily disabled employee. For example, the employer may have to provide light duty, alternative assignments, disability leave, or unpaid leave to pregnant employees if it does so for other temporarily disabled employees.

Additionally, impairments resulting from pregnancy (for example, gestational diabetes or preeclampsia, a condition characterized by pregnancy-induced hypertension and protein in the urine) may be disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). An employer may have to provide a reasonable accommodation (such as leave or modifications that enable an employee to perform her job) for a disability related to pregnancy, absent undue hardship (significant difficulty or expense). The ADA Amendments Act of 2008 makes it much easier to show that a medical condition is a covered disability.

For more information about the ADA, see <http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/types/disability.cfm>.

For information about the ADA Amendments Act, see http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/types/disability_regulations.cfm.

Pregnancy Discrimination & Harassment

It is unlawful to harass a woman because of pregnancy, childbirth, or a medical condition related to pregnancy or childbirth. Harassment is illegal when it is so frequent or severe that it creates a hostile or offensive work environment or when it results in an adverse employment decision (such as the victim being fired or demoted). The harasser can be the victim's supervisor, a supervisor in another area, a co-worker, or someone who is not an employee of the employer, such as a client or customer.

Pregnancy, Maternity & Parental Leave

Under the PDA, an employer that allows temporarily disabled employees to take disability leave or leave without pay, must allow an employee who is temporarily disabled due to pregnancy to do the same.

An employer may not single out pregnancy-related conditions for special procedures to determine an employee's ability to work. However, if an employer requires its employees to submit a doctor's statement concerning their ability to work before granting leave or paying sick benefits, the employer may require employees affected by pregnancy-related conditions to submit such statements.

Further, under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993, a new parent (including foster and adoptive parents) may be eligible for 12 weeks of leave (unpaid or paid if the employee has earned or accrued it) that may be used for care of the new child. To be eligible, the employee must have worked for the employer for 12 months prior to taking the leave and the employer must have a specified number of employees. See <http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs28.htm>.

Pregnancy & Workplace Laws

Pregnant employees may have additional rights under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), which is enforced by the U.S. Department of Labor. Nursing mothers may also have the right to express milk in the workplace under a provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act enforced by the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division.

See <http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs73.htm>.

For more information about the Family Medical Leave Act or break time for nursing mothers, go to <http://www.dol.gov/whd>, or call 202-693-0051 or 1-866-487-9243 (voice), 202-693-7755 (TTY).

Race/Color Discrimination

Race discrimination involves treating someone (an applicant or employee) unfavorably because he/she is of a certain race or because of personal characteristics associated with race (such as hair texture, skin color, or certain facial features). Color discrimination involves treating someone unfavorably because of skin color complexion.

Race/color discrimination also can involve treating someone unfavorably because the person is married to (or associated with) a person of a certain race or color or because of a person's connection with a race-based organization or group, or an organization or group that is generally associated with people of a certain color.

Discrimination can occur when the victim and the person who inflicted the discrimination are the same race or color.

Race/Color Discrimination & Work Situations

The law forbids discrimination when it comes to any aspect of employment, including hiring, firing, pay, job assignments, promotions, layoff, training, fringe benefits, and any other term or condition of employment.

Race/Color Discrimination & Harassment

It is unlawful to harass a person because of that person's race or color.

Harassment can include, for example, racial slurs, offensive or derogatory remarks about a person's race or color, or the display of racially-offensive symbols. Although the law doesn't prohibit simple teasing, offhand comments, or isolated incidents that are not very serious, harassment is illegal when it is so frequent or severe that it creates a hostile or offensive work environment or when it results in an adverse employment decision (such as the victim being fired or demoted).

The harasser can be the victim's supervisor, a supervisor in another area, a co-worker, or someone who is not an employee of the employer, such as a client or customer.

Race/Color Discrimination & Employment Policies/Practices

An employment policy or practice that applies to everyone, regardless of race or color, can be illegal if it has a negative impact on the employment of people of a particular race or color and is not job-related and necessary to the operation of the business. For example, a "no-beard" employment policy that applies to all workers without regard to race may still be unlawful if it is not job-related and has a negative impact on the employment of African-American men (who have a predisposition to a skin condition that causes severe shaving bumps).

Facts About Race/Color Discrimination

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects individuals against employment discrimination on the basis of race and color as well as national origin, sex, or religion.

It is unlawful to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race or color in regard to hiring, termination, promotion, compensation, job training, or any other term, condition, or privilege of employment. Title VII also prohibits employment decisions based on stereotypes and assumptions about abilities, traits, or the performance of individuals of certain racial groups.

Title VII prohibits both intentional discrimination and neutral job policies that disproportionately exclude minorities and that are not job related.

Equal employment opportunity cannot be denied because of marriage to or association with an individual of a different race; membership in or association with ethnic based organizations or groups; attendance or participation in schools or places of worship generally associated with certain minority groups; or other cultural practices or characteristics often linked to race or ethnicity, such as cultural dress or manner of speech, as long as the cultural practice or characteristic does not materially interfere with the ability to perform job duties.

Race-Related Characteristics and Conditions

Discrimination on the basis of an immutable characteristic associated with race, such as skin color, hair texture, or certain facial features violates Title VII, even though not all members of the race share the same characteristic.

Title VII also prohibits discrimination on the basis of a condition which predominantly affects one race unless the practice is job related and consistent with business necessity. For example, since sickle cell anemia predominantly occurs in African-Americans, a policy which excludes individuals with sickle cell anemia is discriminatory unless the policy is job related and consistent with business necessity. Similarly, a “no-beard” employment policy may discriminate against African-American men who have a predisposition to pseudofolliculitis barbae (severe shaving bumps) unless the policy is job-related and consistent with business necessity.

Color Discrimination

Even though race and color clearly overlap, they are not synonymous. Thus, color discrimination can occur between persons of different races or ethnicities, or between persons of the same race or ethnicity. Although Title VII does not define “color,” the courts and the Commission read “color” to have its commonly understood meaning – pigmentation, complexion, or skin shade or tone. Thus, color discrimination occurs when a person is discriminated against based on the lightness, darkness, or other color characteristic of the person. Title VII prohibits race/color discrimination against all persons, including Caucasians.

Although a plaintiff may prove a claim of discrimination through direct or circumstantial evidence, some courts take the position that if a white person relies on circumstantial evidence to establish a reverse discrimination claim, he or she must meet a heightened standard of proof. The Commission, in contrast, applies the same standard of proof to all race discrimination claims, regardless of the victim’s race or the type of evidence used. In either case, the ultimate burden of persuasion remains always on the plaintiff.

Employers should adopt "best practices" to reduce the likelihood of discrimination and to address impediments to equal employment opportunity.

Title VII's protections include:

- **Recruiting, Hiring, and Advancement**

Job requirements must be uniformly and consistently applied to persons of all races and colors. Even if a job requirement is applied consistently, if it is not important for job performance or business needs, the requirement may be found unlawful if it excludes persons of a certain racial group or color significantly more than others. Examples of potentially unlawful practices include:

(1) soliciting applications only from sources in which all or most potential workers are of the same race or color; (2) requiring applicants to have a certain educational background that is not important for job performance or business needs; (3) testing applicants for knowledge, skills or abilities that are not important for job performance or business needs.

Employers may legitimately need information about their employees or applicants race for affirmative action purposes and/or to track applicant flow. One way to obtain racial information and simultaneously guard against discriminatory selection is for employers to use separate forms or otherwise keep the information about an applicant's race separate from the application. In that way, the employer can capture the information it needs but ensure that it is not used in the selection decision.

Unless the information is for such a legitimate purpose, pre-employment questions about race can suggest that race will be used as a basis for making selection decisions. If the information is used in the selection decision and members of particular racial groups are excluded from employment, the inquiries can constitute evidence of discrimination.

- **Compensation and Other Employment Terms, Conditions, and Privileges**

Title VII prohibits discrimination in compensation and other terms, conditions, and privileges of employment. Thus, race or color discrimination may not be the basis for differences in pay or benefits, work assignments, performance evaluations, training, discipline or discharge, or any other area of employment.

- **Harassment**

Harassment on the basis of race and/or color violates Title VII. Ethnic slurs, racial "jokes," offensive or derogatory comments, or other verbal or physical conduct based on an individual's race/color constitutes unlawful harassment if the conduct creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment, or interferes with the individual's work performance.

- **Retaliation**

Employees have a right to be free from retaliation for their opposition to discrimination or their participation in an EEOC proceeding by filing a charge, testifying, assisting, or otherwise participating in an agency proceeding.

- **Segregation and Classification of Employees**

Title VII is violated where minority employees are segregated by physically isolating them from other employees or from customer contact. Title VII also prohibits assigning primarily minorities to predominantly minority establishments or geographic areas. It is also illegal to exclude minorities from certain positions or to group or categorize employees or jobs so that certain jobs are generally held by minorities. Title VII also does not permit racially motivated decisions driven by business concerns – for example, concerns about the effect on employee relations, or the negative reaction of clients or customers. Nor may race or color ever be a bona fide occupational qualification under Title VII.

Coding applications/resumes to designate an applicant's race, by either an employer or employment agency, constitutes evidence of discrimination where minorities are excluded from employment or from certain positions. Such discriminatory coding includes the use of facially benign code terms that implicate race, for example, by area codes where many racial minorities may or are presumed to live.

- **Pre-Employment Inquiries and Requirements**

Requesting pre-employment information which discloses or tends to disclose an applicant's race suggests that race will be unlawfully used as a basis for hiring. Solicitation of such pre-employment information is presumed to be used as a basis for making selection decisions. Therefore, if members of minority groups are excluded from employment, the request for such pre-employment information would likely constitute evidence of discrimination.

However, employers may legitimately need information about their employees' or applicants' race for affirmative action purposes and/or to track applicant flow. One way to obtain racial information and simultaneously guard against discriminatory selection is for employers to use "tear-off sheets" for the identification of an applicant's race. After the applicant completes the application and the tear-off portion, the employer separates the tear-off sheet from the application and does not use it in the selection process.

Other pre-employment information requests which disclose or tend to disclose an applicant's race are personal background checks, such as criminal history checks. Title VII does not categorically prohibit employers' use of criminal records as a basis for making employment decisions. Using criminal records as an employment screen may be lawful, legitimate, and even mandated in certain circumstances. However, employers that use criminal records to screen for employment must comply with Title VII's nondiscrimination requirements.

Religious Discrimination

Religious discrimination involves treating a person (an applicant or employee) unfavorably because of his or her religious beliefs. The law protects not only people who belong to traditional, organized religions, such as Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism, but also others who have sincerely held religious, ethical or moral beliefs.

Religious discrimination can also involve treating someone differently because that person is married to (or associated with) an individual of a particular religion or because of his or her connection with a religious organization or group.

Religious Discrimination & Work Situations

The law forbids discrimination when it comes to any aspect of employment, including hiring, firing, pay, job assignments, promotions, layoff, training, fringe benefits, and any other term or condition of employment.

Religious Discrimination & Harassment

It is illegal to harass a person because of his or her religion.

Harassment can include, for example, offensive remarks about a person's religious beliefs or practices. Although the law doesn't prohibit simple teasing, offhand comments, or isolated incidents that aren't very serious, harassment is illegal when it is so frequent or severe that it creates a hostile or offensive work environment or when it results in an adverse employment decision (such as the victim being fired or demoted).

The harasser can be the victim's supervisor, a supervisor in another area, a co-worker, or someone who is not an employee of the employer, such as a client or customer.

Religious Discrimination and Segregation

Title VII also prohibits workplace or job segregation based on religion (including religious garb and grooming practices), such as assigning an employee to a non-customer contact position because of actual or feared customer preference.

Religious Discrimination & Reasonable Accommodation

The law requires an employer or other covered entity to reasonably accommodate an employee's religious beliefs or practices, unless doing so would cause more than a minimal burden on the operations of the employer's business. This means an employer may be required to make reasonable adjustments to the work environment that will allow an employee to practice his or her religion.

Examples of some common religious accommodations include flexible scheduling, voluntary shift substitutions or swaps, job reassignments, and modifications to workplace policies or practices.

Religious Accommodation/Dress & Grooming Policies

Unless it would be an undue hardship on the employer's operation of its business, an employer must reasonably accommodate an employee's religious beliefs or practices. This applies not only to schedule changes or leave for religious observances, but also to such things as dress or grooming practices that an employee has for religious reasons. These might include, for example, wearing particular head coverings or other religious dress (such as a Jewish yarmulke or a Muslim headscarf), or wearing certain hairstyles or facial hair (such as Rastafarian dreadlocks or Sikh uncut

hair and beard). It also includes an employee's observance of a religious prohibition against wearing certain garments (such as pants or miniskirts).

When an employee or applicant needs a dress or grooming accommodation for religious reasons, he should notify the employer that he needs such an accommodation for religious reasons. If the employer reasonably needs more information, the employer and the employee should engage in an interactive process to discuss the request. If it would not pose an undue hardship, the employer must grant the accommodation.

Religious Discrimination & Reasonable Accommodation & Undue Hardship

An employer does not have to accommodate an employee's religious beliefs or practices if doing so would cause undue hardship to the employer. An accommodation may cause undue hardship if it is costly, compromises workplace safety, decreases workplace efficiency, infringes on the rights of other employees, or requires other employees to do more than their share of potentially hazardous or burdensome work.

Religious Discrimination And Employment Policies/Practices

An employee cannot be forced to participate (or not participate) in a religious activity as a condition of employment.

Retaliation

All of the laws we enforce make it illegal to fire, demote, harass, or otherwise “retaliate” against people (applicants or employees) because they filed a charge of discrimination, because they complained to their employer or other covered entity about discrimination on the job, or because they participated in an employment discrimination proceeding (such as an investigation or lawsuit).

For example, it is illegal for an employer to refuse to promote an employee because she filed a charge of discrimination with the EEOC, even if EEOC later determined no discrimination occurred.

Retaliation & Work Situations

The law forbids retaliation when it comes to any aspect of employment, including hiring, firing, pay, job assignments, promotions, layoff, training, fringe benefits, and any other term or condition of employment.

Facts About Retaliation

An employer may not fire, demote, harass or otherwise "retaliate" against an individual for filing a charge of discrimination, participating in a discrimination proceeding, or otherwise opposing discrimination. The same laws that prohibit discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, and disability, as well as wage differences between men and women performing substantially equal work, also prohibit retaliation against individuals who oppose unlawful discrimination or participate in an employment discrimination proceeding.

In addition to the protections against retaliation that are included in all of the laws enforced by EEOC, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) also protects individuals from coercion, intimidation, threat, harassment, or interference in their exercise of their own rights or their encouragement of someone else's exercise of rights granted by the ADA.

There are three main terms that are used to describe retaliation. Retaliation occurs when an employer, employment agency, or labor organization takes an **adverse action** against a **covered individual** because he or she engaged in a **protected activity**. These three terms are described below.

Adverse Action

An adverse action is an action taken to try to keep someone from opposing a discriminatory practice, or from participating in an employment discrimination proceeding. Examples of adverse actions include:

- employment actions such as termination, refusal to hire, and denial of promotion,
- other actions affecting employment such as threats, unjustified negative evaluations, unjustified negative references, or increased surveillance, and
- any other action such as an assault or unfounded civil or criminal charges that are likely to deter reasonable people from pursuing their rights.

Adverse actions do not include petty slights and annoyances, such as stray negative comments in an otherwise positive or neutral evaluation, "snubbing" a colleague, or negative comments that are justified by an employee's poor work performance or history.

Even if the prior protected activity alleged wrongdoing by a different employer, retaliatory adverse actions are unlawful. For example, it is unlawful for a worker's current employer to retaliate against him for pursuing an EEO charge against a former employer.

Of course, employees are not excused from continuing to perform their jobs or follow their company's legitimate workplace rules just because they have filed a complaint with the EEOC or opposed discrimination. For more information about adverse actions, see EEOC's Compliance Manual Section 8, Chapter II, Part D.

Covered Individuals

Covered individuals are people who have opposed unlawful practices, participated in proceedings, or requested accommodations related to employment discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, or disability. Individuals who have a close association with someone who has engaged in such protected activity also are covered individuals. For example, it is illegal to terminate an employee because his spouse participated in employment discrimination litigation.

Individuals who have brought attention to violations of law other than employment discrimination are NOT covered individuals for purposes of anti-discrimination retaliation laws. For example, "whistleblowers" who raise ethical, financial, or other concerns unrelated to employment discrimination are not protected by the EEOC enforced laws.

Protected Activity

Protected activity includes:

Opposition to a practice believed to be unlawful discrimination.

Opposition is informing an employer that you believe that he/she is engaging in prohibited discrimination. Opposition is protected from retaliation as long as it is based on a reasonable, good-faith belief that the complained of practice violates anti-discrimination law; and the manner of the opposition is reasonable.

Examples of protected opposition include:

- Complaining to anyone about alleged discrimination against oneself or others;
- Threatening to file a charge of discrimination;
- Picketing in opposition to discrimination; or
- Refusing to obey an order reasonably believed to be discriminatory.

Examples of activities that are NOT protected opposition include:

- Actions that interfere with job performance so as to render the employee ineffective; or
- Unlawful activities such as acts or threats of violence.

Participation in an employment discrimination proceeding.

Participation means taking part in an employment discrimination proceeding. Participation is protected activity even if the proceeding involved claims that ultimately were found to be invalid.

Examples of participation include:

- Filing a charge of employment discrimination;
- Cooperating with an internal investigation of alleged discriminatory practices; or
- Serving as a witness in an EEO investigation or litigation.

A protected activity can also include requesting a reasonable accommodation based on religion or disability.

For more information about Protected Activities, see EEOC's Compliance Manual, Section 8, Chapter II, Part B - Opposition and Part C - Participation.

Sex-Based Discrimination

Sex discrimination involves treating someone (an applicant or employee) unfavorably because of that person's sex.

Sex discrimination also can involve treating someone less favorably because of his or her connection with an organization or group that is generally associated with people of a certain sex.

Sex Discrimination & Work Situations

The law forbids discrimination when it comes to any aspect of employment, including hiring, firing, pay, job assignments, promotions, layoff, training, fringe benefits, and any other term or condition of employment.

Sex Discrimination Harassment

It is unlawful to harass a person because of that person's sex. Harassment can include "sexual harassment" or unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature. Harassment does not have to be of a sexual nature, however, and can include offensive remarks about a person's sex. For example, it is illegal to harass a woman by making offensive comments about women in general.

Both victim and the harasser can be either a woman or a man, and the victim and harasser can be the same sex.

Although the law doesn't prohibit simple teasing, offhand comments, or isolated incidents that are not very serious, harassment is illegal when it is so frequent or severe that it creates a hostile or offensive work environment or when it results in an adverse employment decision (such as the victim being fired or demoted).

The harasser can be the victim's supervisor, a supervisor in another area, a co-worker, or someone who is not an employee of the employer, such as a client or customer.

Sex Discrimination & Employment Policies/Practices

An employment policy or practice that applies to everyone, regardless of sex, can be illegal if it has a negative impact on the employment of people of a certain sex and is not job-related or necessary to the operation of the business.

Sexual Harassment

It is unlawful to harass a person (an applicant or employee) because of that person's sex. Harassment can include "sexual harassment" or unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature.

Harassment does not have to be of a sexual nature, however, and can include offensive remarks about a person's sex. For example, it is illegal to harass a woman by making offensive comments about women in general.

Both victim and the harasser can be either a woman or a man, and the victim and harasser can be the same sex.

Although the law doesn't prohibit simple teasing, offhand comments, or isolated incidents that are not very serious, harassment is illegal when it is so frequent or severe that it creates a hostile or offensive work environment or when it results in an adverse employment decision (such as the victim being fired or demoted).

The harasser can be the victim's supervisor, a supervisor in another area, a co-worker, or someone who is not an employee of the employer, such as a client or customer.

Facts About Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination that violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VII applies to employers with 15 or more employees, including state and local governments. It also applies to employment agencies and to labor organizations, as well as to the federal government.

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.

It is helpful for the victim to inform the harasser directly that the conduct is unwelcome and must stop. The victim should use any employer complaint mechanism or grievance system available. When investigating allegations of sexual harassment, EEOC looks at the whole record:

the circumstances, such as the nature of the sexual advances, and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. A determination on the allegations is made from the facts on a case-by-case basis.

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 VII.