

## **Sexual and Other Unlawful Harassment**

The Arc of St. Charles is committed to providing a work environment free of harassment in any form, including inappropriate and disrespectful behavior, intimidation, and other unwelcome conduct directed at an individual because of their inclusion in a protected class. Applicable federal and state law defines harassment as unwelcome behavior based on someone's inclusion in a protected class. Sometimes language or actions that were not expected to be offensive or unwelcome actually are, so employees should err on the side of being more sensitive to the feelings of their co-workers rather than less.

The following are examples of harassment; behaviors not in this list may also be considered harassment:

- Unwanted sexual advances.
- Offering employment benefits in exchange for sexual favors.
- Retaliation or threats of retaliation for refusing advances or requests for favors.
- Leering, making sexual gestures or jokes, or commenting on an employee's body.
- Displaying sexually suggestive content.
- Displaying or sharing derogatory posters, photographs, or drawings.
- Making derogatory epithets, or slurs.
- Ongoing teasing about an employee's religious or cultural practices.
- Ongoing teasing about an employee's sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
- Physical conduct such as touching, assault, or impeding or blocking movements.

Sexual harassment on the job is unlawful whether it involves coworker harassment, harassment by a manager, or harassment by persons doing business with or for the Company, such as clients, customers or vendors.

### **Retaliation**

Any form of retaliation against someone who has expressed concern about any form of harassment, refused to partake in harassing behavior, made a harassment complaint, or cooperated in a harassment investigation, is strictly prohibited. A complaint made in good faith will under no circumstances be grounds for disciplinary action. Individuals who make complaints that they know to be false may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

### **Enforcement**

All managers and supervisors are responsible for:

- Implementing the Company's harassment policy.
- Ensuring that all employees they supervise have knowledge of and understand the Company policy.
- Reporting any complaints of misconduct to the designated company representative, the HR Manager, so they may be investigated and resolved internally.
- Taking and/or assisting in prompt and appropriate corrective action when necessary to ensure compliance with the policy; and

- Conducting themselves in a manner consistent with the policy.

### **Addressing Issues Informally**

Employees who witness offensive behavior in the workplace - whether directed at them or another employee - are encouraged, though not required, to immediately address it with the employee whose behavior they found offensive. An employee who is informed that their behavior is or was offensive should stop immediately and refrain from that behavior in the future, regardless of whether they agree that the behavior could have been offensive.

### **Harassment Complaint Procedure**

Employees are encouraged to use the Complaint Procedure to report behavior that they feel is harassing, whether or not that behavior is directed at them. The Complaint Procedure provides for immediate, thorough, and objective investigation of claims of harassment.

Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against those who are determined to have engaged in harassing behavior.