**Anti-Harassment Policy**

**Policy Objective**

We at [Company name], strive to create and maintain a work environment in which people are treated with pride, politeness and respect. The atmosphere of the company should be characterized by mutual trust and the absence of bullying. That’s why [Company name] will not tolerate unlawful harassment of any kind. Through enforcement of this policy and by education of employees of [Company name] will seek to prevent, correct and discipline all behaviors that violate this policy.

**Policy Scope**

All of [Company name]’s employees, regardless of their positions, are covered by and are expected to comply with this policy and to take appropriate measures to ensure that prohibited conduct does not occur. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against any employee who violates this policy. Based on the seriousness of the offense, disciplinary action may include verbal or written warning, suspension, or termination of employment.

Managers and supervisors who perceptively allow or tolerate harassment or retaliation, including the failure to immediately report such misconduct to human resources, are in violation of this policy and subject to discipline.

**Policy Elements**

We enforce this policy in accordance with the following definitions and guidelines:

1. **Harassment**

[Company name] prohibits harassment of any kind, including Physical Harassment, Personal Harassment, Personal, Discriminatory Harassment, Psychological Harassment, Cyberbullying and Sexual Harassment and will take appropriate and immediate action in response to complaints or knowledge of violations of this policy. For purposes of this policy, harassment is any verbal or physical conduct designed to threaten, intimidate, annoy, assault or coerce an employee, co-worker, or any person working for or on behalf of [Company name].

1. **Harassment Types**

**Verbal Harassment**: Verbal harassment usually includes offensive or unwelcome comments regarding a person’s religion, ethnicity, gender, color, or disability.

**Non-Verbal Harassment**: Nonverbal harassment can take forms in writing or graphical materials that displays disrespect and ridicule, insults, or shows hostility, toward an individual or group because of religion, ethnicity, gender, color, or disability.

**Sexual Harassment**: Sexual harassment is a form of unlawful employment discrimination that includes any kind of unwelcomed sexual advances, gestures or requests of unwanted sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, when submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for employment decisions or such conduct has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

**Physical Harassment**: Physical harassment includes unwelcome, unwanted physical contact, it occurs by hitting, pushing, groping or any form of physical interactions against others and forced sexual advances or assault.

1. **Retaliation**

No hardship, loss or penalty may be imposed on an employee in response to:

* Filing or responding to a complaint of harassment.
* Appearing as a witness in the investigation of a complaint.
* Serving as an investigator of a complaint.

Filing groundless or malicious complaints is an abuse of this policy and will be treated as a violation. Any person who is found to have violated this aspect of the policy will be subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment.

1. **Confidentiality**

All complaints and investigations are treated confidentially to the extent possible, and information is disclosed strictly on a need-to-know basis. The identity of the complainant is usually revealed to the parties involved during the investigation, and the [HR Manager] will take adequate steps to ensure that the complainant is protected from retaliation during and after the investigation. All information pertaining to a complaint or investigation under this policy will be maintained in secure files within the HR department.

**Complaint Procedure (How to address Harassment)**

[Company name] has established the following procedure for lodging a complaint of harassment or retaliation. The company will treat all aspects of the procedure confidentially to the extent reasonably possible.

1. Complaints should be submitted as soon as possible after an incident has occurred, preferably in writing. The [HR Manager] may assist the complainant in completing a written statement or, in the event an employee refuses to provide information in writing, the [HR Manager] will dictate the verbal complaint.
2. Upon receiving a complaint or being advised by a supervisor or manager that violation of this policy may be occurring, the [HR Manager] will notify senior management and review the complaint with the company’s legal counsel.
3. The [HR Manager] will initiate an investigation to determine whether there is a reasonable basis for believing that the alleged violation of this policy occurred.
4. If necessary, the complainant and the respondent will be separated during the course of the investigation, either through internal transfer or administrative leave.
5. During the investigation, the [HR Manager], together with legal counsel or other management employees, will interview the complainant, the respondent and any witnesses to determine whether the alleged conduct occurred.
6. Upon conclusion of an investigation, the [HR Manager] or any other person conducting the investigation will submit a written report of his or her findings to the company. If it is determined that a violation of this policy has occurred, the [HR Manager] will recommend appropriate disciplinary action. The appropriate action will depend on the following factors:
* The severity, frequency and pervasiveness of the conduct;
* Prior complaints made by the complainant;
* Prior complaints made against the respondent; and
* The quality of the evidence.

If the investigation is inconclusive or if it is determined that there has been no violation of policy but potentially problematic conduct may have occurred, the [HR Manager] may recommend appropriate preventive action.

1. Senior management will review the investigative report and any statements submitted by the complainant or respondent, discuss results of the investigation with the [HR Manager] and other management staff as appropriate, and decide what action, if any, will be taken.

Once a final decision is made by senior management, the [HR Manager] will meet with the complainant and the respondent separately and notify them of the findings of the investigation. If disciplinary action is to be taken, the respondent will be informed of the nature of the discipline and how it will be executed.

**→**The Employee has read and understood the content and agrees to it and undertakes to fully comply with all of the above.

Date:

Signature:

***[DELETE THIS SECTION] - Note for users of this template:***

This document is a template of an “*Anti-Harassment Policy*”. Please feel free to make any modifications and customizations to it in whatever way that suits the specific needs of your organization while ensuring compliance with the labor laws and employment standards and legislation in your state/country.

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