

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

Section 1 — Statement of Policy

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age or national origin. Sexual harassment is included among the prohibitions.

Sexual harassment, according to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), consists of unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors or other verbal or physical acts of a sexual or sex-based nature where (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment; (2) an employment decision is based on an individual's acceptance or rejection of such conduct; or (3) such conduct interferes with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.

It is also unlawful to retaliate or take reprisal in any way against anyone who has articulated any concern about sexual harassment or discrimination, whether that concern relates to harassment of or discrimination against the individual raising the concern or against another individual. Examples of conduct that would be considered sexual harassment or related retaliation are set forth in the Statement of Prohibited Conduct below. These examples illustrate the kind of conduct proscribed by this policy; the list is not exhaustive.

Sexual harassment is unlawful. The Winn Parish Sheriff's Office ("Sheriff's Office") is committed to vigorously enforcing its sexual harassment policy at all levels.

Section 2 — Statement of Prohibited Conduct

The WPSO considers the following conduct to represent some of the types of acts that violate the sexual harassment policy:

A: Physical assaults of a sexual nature, such as:

- (1) Rape, sexual battery, molestation or attempts to commit these assaults
- (2) Intentional physical conduct which is sexual in nature, such as grabbing another employee's body

B: Unwanted sexual advances, propositions or other sexual comments such as:

- (1) Sexually oriented remarks or jokes about a person's sexuality or sexual experience directed at or made in the presence of any employee who indicates or has indicated that such conduct in his or her presence is unwelcome.
- (2) Preferential treatment or promise of preferential treatment to an employee for submitting to sexual conduct, including soliciting or attempting to solicit any employee to engage in sexual activity for compensation or reward.
- (3) Subjecting, or threats of subjecting, an employee to unwelcome sexual attention or conduct or intentionally making performance of the employee's job more difficult because of that employee's sex.

C: Sexual or discriminatory displays of publications in the workplace, such as:

- (1) Displaying pictures, posters, calendars or other materials that are sexually suggestive, or pornographic.

- (2) Displaying signs or other materials purporting to segregate an employee by sex in any area of the workplace, other than restrooms and similar semiprivate lockers/changing rooms.

D: Retaliation for sexual harassment complaints, such as disciplining, changing work assignments, providing inaccurate work information to, or refusing to cooperate or discuss work-related matters with any employee because that employee has complained and/or testified about, or resisted harassment, discrimination or retaliation.

Section 3 — Penalties for Misconduct

Any employee's commission of acts of sexual harassment or retaliation against a sexual harassment complainant or witness will result in appropriate sanctions, up to and including dismissal, against the offending employee, depending upon the nature and severity of the misconduct.

A written record of each action taken pursuant to this policy will be placed in the offending employee's file. The record will reflect the conduct, or alleged conduct, and the warning given, or other discipline imposed.

Section 4 — Procedures for Making, Investigating and Resolving Sexual Harassment and Retaliation Complaints

A: Complaints — complaints of acts of sexual harassment and retaliation that are in violation of the sexual harassment policy will be accepted in writing or orally, and anonymous complaints will be taken seriously and investigated. A complaint need not be limited to someone who was the target of harassment or retaliation. Anyone who has suffered or observed sexual harassment or retaliation should report it to his or her immediate supervisor. In the event that it would be inappropriate to report such concerns to one's immediate supervisors, the report may be made to the Sheriff directly. In the event that a female employee would prefer to report a concern about sexual discrimination or harassment to another female, such concerns may be reported to any female supervisory officer of the Sheriff's Office. While employees are encouraged to report to their immediate supervisor, or the individuals noted above, employees who desire to report complaints to another supervisory officer of the WPSO staff may do so.

Only those who have an immediate need to know — including the person to whom a report was made, the alleged target of harassment or retaliation, the alleged harasser or retaliator, and any witness — may obtain the identity of the complainant. All parties contacted in the course of an investigation will be advised that all parties involved in a charge are entitled to respect and that any retaliation or reprisal against an individual who is an alleged target of harassment or retaliation, who has made a complaint or who has provided evidence in connection with a complaint, is a separate actionable offense and subject to discipline under this policy.

B: Cooperation — An effective sexual harassment policy requires the support and example of employees in positions of authority. The WPSO agents or employees who engage in sexual harassment or retaliation or who fail to cooperate with Sheriff's Office-sponsored investigations of sexual harassment or retaliation may be sanctioned by suspension or dismissal. By the same token, officials who refuse to implement remedial measures, obstruct the remedial efforts of other WPSO Office employees, and/or retaliate against sexual harassment complaints or witnesses be sanctioned by suspension or dismissal.

By signing below, I verify I have read and understand the WPSO Sexual Harassment Policy.

Signature: _____ Date: _____