

SECTION 10.12: SEXUAL HARRASSMENT FREE WORKPLACE

The best work environments are built on a foundation of respect for all those that contribute. For that and many other reasons, ASSUMPTION PARISH POLICE JURY is committed to providing a work environment free of sexual harassment.

Sexual Harassment Prohibited

ASSUMPTION PARISH POLICE JURY defines *sexual harassment* as behavior or comments that create a hostile work environment for another person because of his or her gender. This includes male-to-female, female-to-male, male-to-male, and female-to-female harassment.

Verbal, physical, sexual or any other form of harassment that belittles or demeans any individual on the basis of sex, or any other status or condition protected by applicable federal, state or local laws is also strictly prohibited. Prohibited sexual harassment includes conduct that has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an employee's work performance or experience or creating an environment that is hostile, intimidating or offensive. Sexual advances; requests or demands for sexual favors; physical conduct of a sexual nature; sexual jokes; sexual slurs; and other harassing language or conduct that is meant to intimidate or that negatively impacts an employee's work environment is strictly prohibited.

Sexual Harassment Free Workplace

ASSUMPTION PARISH POLICE JURY does not tolerate and expressly prohibits harassment or any acts (physical, verbal or otherwise) that create a hostile or intolerable working environment for any employee, [volunteer, applicant, agent, contractor, customer, client or vendor e.g.] because his or her gender or other protected status under law. This policy applies to every person in the workplace and everyone who participates in work-sponsored activities no matter his or her authority, position or classification.

Reporting Sexual Harassment

If you believe you are sexually harassed or if you know or suspect sexual harassment to another employee or workplace participant, you must report it immediately to your immediate supervisor or the Secretary-Treasurer. If you do not feel comfortable reporting as listed above or if you did report and are not satisfied with the response, then you should direct your report or dissatisfaction to the Personnel Committee Chairperson. If for any reason you do not want to discuss the matter with the persons or departments listed above, you may report the matter to Police Jury President. Please note that you are not required to confront the person or persons that have given you reason to report. However, if you experience wrongdoing, like sexual harassment, you must make a reasonable effort to make the wrongdoing known as soon as or soon after you experience or discover it. Discussing or reporting acts of sexual harassment to any person not listed above does not constitute a report.

Retaliation Prohibited

If you believe you are being subjected to retaliation for reporting a violation of this policy, or participating in an investigation of this policy, you should report the retaliation immediately in the manner provided above. Please note that you do not have to confront the person that is the source of the retaliation before reporting it, but to help prevent retaliation from continuing, you must report it. Any employee or workplace participant that retaliates against another employee or workplace participant for making a good faith complaint of a violation of this policy, or for assisting in an investigation of a complaint of a violation of this policy, is subject to discipline or termination. Retaliation can include, but is not limited to harassment, discrimination, bullying or any other unfair treatment or abuse of power.

Workplace Investigations

If warranted, ASSUMPTION PARISH POLICE JURY will investigate credible allegations of sexual harassment. ASSUMPTION PARISH POLICE JURY may use third parties to assist in such investigations. All employees have a responsibility to cooperate fully in any such investigation. Unreasonable refusal to participate in an investigation of a complaint of sexual harassment may lead to discipline.

False Claims Prohibited

Any employee or workplace participant that makes a knowingly false or frivolous claim of workplace wrongdoing, like a knowingly false claim of sexual harassment, will be subject to discipline or termination.