Know Your Rights

Governor Mike DeWine

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY IS THE LAW

The Ohio Civil Rights Act *protects applicants and employees of private employers, state, county and local governments, educational institutions, labor organizations, employment agencies and personnel placement services from unlawful discriminatory employment practices.*

Race and Color

Ohio law prohibits discrimination on the basis of ***race or color*** in hiring, promotion, tenure, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, terms, conditions and privileges of employment, or any other matter directly or indirectly related to employment.

In addition, any facially neutral employment policy or practice that results in a discriminatory impact on the basis of race or color is a prohibited form of discrimination unless such policy or practice is job-related and based upon business necessity.

National Origin and Ancestry

Ohio law prohibits discrimination on the basis of ***national origin or ancestry*** in hiring, promotion, tenure, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, terms, conditions and privileges of employment, or any other matter directly or indirectly related to employment.

In addition, any policy or practice limiting or prohibiting the use of any language in the workplace is a prohibited form of discrimination unless such limitation or prohibition is job-related and based upon business necessity.

Sex, Including Pregnancy, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity

Ohio law prohibits discrimination on the basis of ***sex or pregnancy*** in hiring, promotion, tenure, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, terms, conditions and privileges of employment, or any other matter directly or indirectly related to employment.

Women affected by pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition must be afforded leave for a reasonable period of time and may not be discharged under a policy providing insufficient or no leave.

The U.S. Supreme Court, in the case of *Bostock v. Clayton Cty., Georgia. U.S. 140 S. Ct. 1731 (2020)*, as well as other federal court cases have extended sex discrimination to include prohibition of employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Religion

Ohio law prohibits discrimination on the basis of ***religion*** in hiring, promotion, tenure, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, terms, conditions and privileges of employment, or any other matter directly or indirectly related to employment.

In addition, applicants and employees must be provided with a reasonable accommodation for religious beliefs and practices, except when the accommodation imposes an undue hardship.

Military Status

Ohio law prohibits discrimination on the basis of ***military status*** in hiring, promotion, tenure, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, terms, conditions and privileges of employment, or any other matter directly or indirectly related to employment.

In addition, employees who leave employment to perform military service, which includes the performance of duty, on a voluntary or involuntary basis, in a uniformed service, under competent authority, must be reemployed upon conclusion of such service.

Disability

Ohio law prohibits discrimination on the basis of ***disability*** in hiring, promotion, tenure, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, terms, conditions and privileges of employment, or any other matter directly or indirectly related to employment.

In addition, applicants and employees must be provided with a reasonable accommodation for their disabilities, except when the accommodation imposes an undue hardship.

Age

Ohio law prohibits discrimination against persons ***40 years of age or older*** on the basis of ***age*** in hiring, promotion, tenure, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, terms, conditions and privileges of employment, or any other matter directly or indirectly related to employment.

Harassment

Ohio law prohibits harassment in the workplace on any basis set forth herein, which includes the creation of a racially or sexually hostile work environment, verbally or physically abusive treatment, and requiring submission to sexual advances as a condition of employment, continued employment or promotion.

In addition, all reasonable steps should be taken to prevent and promptly correct harassment in the workplace, which includes the establishment of a policy against harassment and a procedure for receiving, investigating and remedying complaints of workplace harassment.

Retaliation

Ohio law prohibits retaliation against any person because that person has opposed any unlawful discriminatory practice, or because that person has made a charge, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in any investigation, proceeding or hearing.

ENFORCEMENT

The Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC) investigates complaints of discrimination and harassment in employment.

Complaints must be filed with the OCRC within two years of the last act of discrimination or harassment.

For more information or assistance in filing a complaint, please call toll free: **1-888-278-7101, TTY (614) 752-2391** or visit our website at: **www.civ.ohio.gov**

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