

# ILLINOIS STATE POLICE DIRECTIVE

## PER-033, SEXUAL HARASSMENT

<b>RESCINDS:</b> PER-033, 2025-017, revised 07-24-2025	<b>REVISED:</b> 10-28-2025 <b>2025-028</b>
<b>RELATED DOCUMENTS:</b> PER-001, PER-009, PER-030, PER-032, PER-103, PER-105, ROC-002	<b>RELATED CALEA STANDARDS (6<sup>th</sup> Edition):</b> 26.1.1, 26.1.3, 26.1.4, 26.1.5, 26.1.7, 26.1.8, 26.2.1, 26.2.2, 26.2.3, 26.2.4, 26.3.1, 26.3.2, 26.3.3, 26.3.4, 26.3.5, 26.3.7, 26.3.8, 31.2.3, 33.4.2, 33.4.3

### I. POLICY

- I.A. The Illinois State Police (ISP) prohibits sexual harassment; such acts are unlawful and will serve as the basis for disciplinary action up to and including termination.
- I.B. The ISP has determined the most effective way to limit harassing conduct is to treat it as misconduct, even if it does not rise to the level of harassment actionable under federal or state law. The ISP will act before the harassing conduct becomes so pervasive and offensive as to constitute unlawful sexual harassment.
- I.C. The ISP reaffirms its commitment to eliminate discrimination, harassment (including sexual harassment), and retaliation in employment situations by:
  - I.C.1. Empowering employees to resolve their concerns through the internal intake inquiry, alternative dispute resolution (ADR), or limited review processes provided by the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Office.
  - I.C.2. Making employees, supervisors, and managers aware of their rights and responsibilities under the ISP's EEO policies and procedures (see also ISP Directives PER-009, "Equal Employment Opportunity," and PER-032, "Discrimination and Harassment").
- I.D. To ensure appropriate corrective measures are implemented where policy violations are identified, allegations of harassing conduct, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, or other violations of EEO policy will be addressed in accordance with the provisions of ISP Directive PER-032, "Discrimination and Harassment," regardless of whether an employee wants to sign a Complaint Against Department Member form (CADMF).
- I.E. Pursuant to Executive Order Number 16 (1999) (see Addendum 1), the ISP adopts and implements the Governor's "Model Policy on Sexual Harassment" (see Addendum 2) and the Governor's Model Policy on "Strengthening the State's Ethics Laws and Compliance" (see Addendum 3). This directive is intended to facilitate that implementation.

### II. AUTHORITY

- II.A. 775 ILCS 5/1, et seq., "Illinois Human Rights Act"
- II.B. 29 U.S.C. 626, et seq., "Age Discrimination in Employment Act"
- II.C. 42 U.S.C. 2000e, et seq., "Civil Rights Act of 1964"
- II.D. 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., "Americans with Disabilities Act"
- II.E. Title 56, Illinois Administrative Code, Part 2520 et seq., Procedures of the Department of Human Rights
- II.F. Illinois Executive Order Number 16 (1999), "Sexual Harassment in State Agencies"
- II.G. Illinois Executive Order 2018-002, "Strengthening the State's Ethics Laws and Compliance"

## III. DEFINITIONS

**NOTE:** For additional definitions related to this directive, see ISP Directive PER-032, "Discrimination and Harassment."

- III.A. Allegation – a report of information related to a potential act of harassing conduct, discrimination, harassment, or retaliation in the workplace provided either in writing or orally to any supervisor or manager of the ISP, or to the EEO Office, but not including those reports made on a CADMF.
- III.B. Complaint – a report of harassing conduct, discrimination, harassment, or retaliation made on a CADMF.
- III.C. False or frivolous allegations or complaints – allegations or complaints in which the accuser is either being intentionally dishonest or misleading, or is using an EEO process to accomplish some end other than ending discrimination, harassment, or retaliation. It does not refer to allegations or complaints made in good faith that cannot be proven.
- III.D. Family Responsibilities – an employee's actual or perceived provision of personal care to a covered family member. As used in this definition:
  - III.D.1. "Personal care" means activities to ensure that a covered family member's basic medical, hygiene, nutritional, or safety needs are met, or to provide transportation to medical appointments, for a covered family member who is unable to meet those needs himself or herself. "Personal care" also means being physically present to provide emotional support to a covered family member with a serious health condition who is receiving inpatient or home care.
  - III.D.2. "Covered family member" means an employee's child, stepchild, spouse, domestic partner, sibling, parent, mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandchild, grandparent, or stepparent.
- III.E. Harassing Conduct – any conduct that may reasonably cause another person to feel offended, humiliated, intimidated, insulted, or ridiculed based on unlawful discrimination that does not rise to the level of harassment (as defined in this directive).
- III.F. Harassment – any unwelcome conduct on the basis of an individual's actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, marital status, order of protection status, disability, military status, sexual orientation, pregnancy, unfavorable discharge from military service, citizenship status, work authorization status, or family responsibilities that has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with the individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. For purposes of this definition, the phrase "working environment" is not limited to a physical location an employee is assigned to perform his or her duties.
- III.G. Order of Protection Status – a person's status as being a person protected under an order of protection issued pursuant to the Illinois Domestic Violence Act of 1986, Article 112A of the Code of Criminal Procedures of 1963, the Stalking No Contact Order Act, or the Civil No Contact Order Act, or an order of protection issued by a court of another state but does not include those who are listed as a respondent to the order.
- III.H. Protected Activity – includes, but is not limited to, having:
  - III.H.1. Requested a reasonable accommodation pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
  - III.H.2. Reported discrimination, harassment, or retaliation to the ISP, the Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR), the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), or any other appropriate governmental agency
  - III.H.3. Otherwise participated in the reasonable accommodation, intake inquiry, limited review, ADR, or investigation process
  - III.H.4. Otherwise opposed discriminatory practices when done lawfully and in accordance with ISP Policy.

- III.I. Retaliation – any adverse employment action, reprisal, coercion, or intimidation (directly or indirectly) against a person who has previously or currently engaged in a protected activity when the action and protected activity are causally linked. Retaliation is a form of discrimination unlawful under Title VII of the U.S. Civil Rights Act and the IHRA and may include actions without legitimate business reason that would reasonably dissuade a person from making or supporting an EEO complaint or otherwise opposing discrimination.
- III.J. Sexual Harassment - any unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors or any conduct of a sexual nature when (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.
- III.K. Workplace – refers to any location where employees are engaged in work related activities or are present as a condition or because of their employment. The workplace includes ISP occupied locations and may include other locations when events at that location have an impact on the work environment of an employee.

#### IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

**NOTE:** The ISP will respond to allegations of sexual harassment consistent with the procedures set forth in ISP Directive PER-032, "Discrimination and Harassment." Actions taken will comply with the terms of the appropriate collective bargaining agreement when impacting collective bargaining unit members.

**NOTE:** Employees are encouraged to utilize the options set forth in EEO policy to resolve issues related to sexual harassment (see ISP Directive PER-032, "Discrimination and Harassment," for specific procedures for addressing allegations and complaints). However, nothing in this directive prevents an employee from asserting their right to pursue a claim through other legally available means, including the IDHR, the EEOC, or other appropriate state governmental agencies. (See ISP Directive, PER-032, Addendum 2, "State and Federal Agency Contact Information," for contact information for these agencies.)

##### IV.A. Employees

- IV.A.1. Employees are encouraged to act promptly when they perceive sexual harassment in the workplace. Employees desiring information, referrals, or clarification concerning issues of sexual harassment are encouraged to call the confidential ISP EEO Hotline number, (800) 952-1217. Employees can also contact the IDHR Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Helpline online at <https://shdh.illinois.gov/reporting.html> or call (877) 236-7703, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. TTY users call 7-1-1.
- IV.A.2. Employees who believe they are the victims of sexual harassment are encouraged to tell the initiating party that their actions are unwelcome and offensive. Where this is not practical, the employee shall notify their immediate supervisor.
  - IV.A.2.a. If the alleged harasser is the employee's immediate supervisor, the employee shall bypass the supervisor and notify the next level of management.
  - IV.A.2.b. If the employee is not comfortable reporting sexual harassment to their management, fears retaliation, or is not satisfied with the actions taken by their management, the employee shall notify the EEO Office.
- IV.A.3. Employees should make verbal or written reports of sexual harassment to the EEO Office as timely as possible.
- IV.A.4. All employees will cooperate fully with the EEO Office or any other personnel conducting an intake inquiry, limited review, or investigation (see ISP Directive PER-032, "Discrimination and Harassment," for additional responsibilities).

- IV.A.5. Making or filing a false or frivolous allegation or complaint can result in disciplinary action up to and including termination (see ISP Directives ROC-002, "Rules of Conduct," and PER-103, "Code Employee Disciplinary Rules").
- IV.A.6. All employees will comply with the reporting and confidentiality requirements of ISP Directive PER-032, "Discrimination and Harassment," with regard to allegations, complaints, and information relating to behavior that may reasonably be considered sexual harassment.
- IV.A.7. Employees desiring information, referrals, or clarification concerning issues of sexual harassment or sexual assault are encouraged to contact any one of the following:
  - IV.A.7.a. The confidential ISP EEO Hotline - (800) 952-1217
  - IV.A.7.b. IDHR - (312) 814-6200, (312) 814-4320 to speak with the IDHR Counselor of the Day or by completing the online "Contact IDHR" form at <https://dhr.illinois.gov/about-us/contact-idhr-form.html>
  - IV.A.7.c. The 9to5 National Association of Working Women Sexual Harassment Hotline - (800) 522-0925 and online at <https://9to5.org>.
  - IV.A.7.d. The nearest facility of the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ICASA). Locations can be found at <https://www.icasa.org>.
  - IV.A.7.e. The National Sexual Assault Hotline operated by the Rape Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) at (800) 656-HOPE (4673) and online at <https://rainn.org>.
- IV.B. Supervisors and managers:
  - IV.B.1. Will set the standard for acceptable behavior in the workplace and will refuse to tolerate any form of harassing conduct or sexual harassment.
  - IV.B.2. Will ensure their actions are not reasonably offensive on the basis of sex, which includes the characteristics of gender, marital or parental status, pregnancy, or family responsibilities, and includes indicating a casual, dating, romantic or sexual interest towards another by way of conversation, body language, or brief physical contact regardless of whether such conduct is one-sided, reciprocated, or encouraged.
  - IV.B.3. Must make notification to the appropriate Deputy Director through the chain-of-command, the Division of Internal Investigation (DII) Area Commander, the EEO Office, and the Ethics Officer within 24 hours of becoming aware of information regarding behavior that may reasonably be considered sexual harassment, regardless of how such information is obtained or whether the employee wants to make an allegation or complaint.
  - IV.B.4. Will consult with the EEO Office prior to taking any action (other than the notifications described above) in response to allegations or complaints of sexual harassment.
  - IV.B.5. Will fulfill the responsibilities described in ISP Directive PER-032, "Discrimination and Harassment."
  - IV.B.6. May notify and consult with the EEO Office by calling the ISP EEO Hotline at (800) 952-1217.
  - IV.B.7. Will also comply with other applicable requirements of this directive. Failure to comply with the reporting and other responsibilities and procedures established in this directive and in ISP Directive PER-032, "Discrimination and Harassment," may be considered in performance evaluations as well as other personnel actions as determined by the Director.
- IV.C. EEO Office
  - IV.C.1. The EEO Office will fulfill its responsibilities and respond to all reports of sexual harassment consistent with the procedures described in ISP Directive PER-032, "Discrimination and Harassment."
  - IV.C.2. Where possible and in the best interests of the aggrieved party and the ISP, the EEO Office will facilitate the resolution of allegations and complaints of sexual harassment promptly and outside the investigative and disciplinary process.

IV.D. Confidentiality

All employees will observe strict confidentiality with respect to sexual harassment incidents and complaints. Information will be shared only with those who specifically need to have knowledge of the incident, allegation or complaint to achieve the objectives of EEO policies. (See ISP Directive PER-032, "Discrimination and Harassment," for additional confidentiality requirements.)

**-End of Directive-**

**ILLINOIS STATE POLICE DIRECTIVE  
PER-033, SEXUAL HARASSMENT  
ADDENDUM 1, GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 16 (1999)**

<b>RESCINDS:</b> PER-033, 2025-017, revised 07-24-2025	<b>REVISED:</b> 10-28-2025 <b>2025-028</b>
<b>RELATED DOCUMENTS:</b> PER-001, PER-009, PER-030, PER-032, PER-103, PER-105, ROC-002	<b>RELATED CALEA STANDARDS (6<sup>th</sup> Edition):</b> 26.1.1, 26.1.3, 26.1.4, 26.1.5, 26.1.7, 26.1.8, 26.2.1, 26.2.2, 26.2.3, 26.2.4, 26.3.1, 26.3.2, 26.3.3, 26.3.4, 26.3.5, 26.3.7, 26.3.8, 31.2.3, 33.4.2, 33.4.3

EXECUTIVE ORDER

NUMBER 16 (1999)

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN STATE AGENCIES**

WHEREAS, in 1980 Executive Order No. 1, entitled "Sexual Harassment," declared that all state employees have the right to work in an environment free of sexual harassment, provided a descriptive definition of sexual harassment and directed various actions by agencies to provide training, disseminate information and prevent sexual harassment from occurring; and

WHEREAS, in 1992 Executive Order No. 7, entitled "Sexual Harassment in State Agencies," recognized the continuing impact and cost of sexual harassment in the workplace, streamlined the definition of harassment and promulgated a detailed and comprehensive policy for all state Departments, Agencies, Boards and Commissions to adopt; and

WHEREAS, in the years following the issuance of these Executive Orders, court decisions and changes in rules and laws, especially a series of United States Supreme Court rulings, have resulted in an expansion of the laws to protect both men and women from sexual harassment; further clarification of what constitutes sexual harassment, and a significant redefinition of the standards for employer liability for sexual harassment by supervisors; and

WHEREAS, these recent decisions impose near absolute or strict liability upon an employer when sexual harassment by a supervisor is established and results in tangible adverse employment action (a significant change in employment status such as demotion, significant change in benefits, failure to promote or termination) and also make it clear that an employer may be liable for sexual harassment by a supervisor that results in a hostile work environment, regardless of whether the employer had knowledge or should have had knowledge of the harassment; and

WHEREAS, in hostile work environment claims that result from harassment by a supervisor but do not result in a tangible adverse employment action, employers may rely upon a fair, effective and vigorously implemented sexual harassment policy as an affirmative defense where a person making such allegations has not taken advantage of remedies afforded by readily accessible procedures for reporting, investigating and remediating such charges; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of a well defined, readily accessible and effective policy for dealing with sexual harassment charges, an employer's exposure to liability is greatly increased; and

WHEREAS, these recent developments in the law further reinforce the need for employers to undertake all reasonable efforts to prevent and promptly respond to and remedy sexual harassment by co-workers; and

WHEREAS, regardless of liability issues, it is essential that agency directors and senior managers clearly indicate to all levels of supervisors and employees that sexual harassment results in the costly and harmful loss of efficiency and productivity and does serious damage to the morale and well being of the agency's workforce and will not be tolerated;

THEREFORE, in order to assure, insofar as possible, the provisions of a work environment free of sexual harassment and that a clear, consistent, firm and up-to-date policy dealing with sexual harassment is applied throughout the agencies of state government, I hereby order pursuant to the authority vested in me by Article V, Section 8 of the Illinois Constitution the following:

1. The head of each department, agency, board or commission under the jurisdiction of the Governor shall adopt and implement the attached Model Policy on Sexual Harassment. Among other provisions the policy describes the state and federal laws which make sexual harassment illegal and the consequences of violating those laws; defines sexual harassment using examples; and sets forth options available to an employee for bringing a complaint within

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**Addendum 1, Governor's Executive Order Number 16 (1999)**

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the agency and with outside agencies; and finally, provides for measures to prevent retaliation against an employee for making a complaint.

2. Each such head of a department, agency, board or commission shall assure that the Policy is disseminated to each employee under its jurisdiction.
3. The Departments of Human Rights and Central Management Services shall review the Model Policy on Sexual Harassment at least annually and make recommendations for changes to the Governor as needed to reflect the continuing evolution of sexual harassment laws, rules and case law as well as to increase the effectiveness of the Policy.
4. The Departments of Human Rights and Central Management Services shall establish comprehensive training programs for EEO Officers, supervisors and new employees which will (a) explain the Policy and the recourse available to employees who feel they have been subject to harassment, and (b) address the need for a speedy and thorough response to any complaint, report or observation relating to sexual harassment in the workplace including sensitivity training, investigative methods, confidentiality and ranges of disciplinary action.
5. The Department of Central Management Services shall make itself available on an ongoing basis to assist and advise departments, agencies, boards and commissions in internal investigations of alleged instances of sexual harassment and in matters of disciplinary actions.

This Order shall not be construed to abridge or expand the rights of any person under the constitutions or statutes of the United States or of this State.

Executive Order Number 7 (1992) is hereby repealed.

This Order shall be effective immediately.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
GEORGE H. RYAN  
Governor

November 5, 1999

**-End of Addendum-**

**ILLINOIS STATE POLICE DIRECTIVE  
PER-033, SEXUAL HARASSMENT  
ADDENDUM 2, GOVERNOR'S MODEL POLICY ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

<b>RESCINDS:</b> PER-033, 2025-017, revised 07-24-2025	<b>REVISED:</b> 10-28-2025 <b>2025-028</b>
<b>RELATED DOCUMENTS:</b> PER-001, PER-009, PER-030, PER-032, PER-103, PER-105, ROC-002	<b>RELATED CALEA STANDARDS (6<sup>th</sup> Edition):</b> 26.1.1, 26.1.3, 26.1.4, 26.1.5, 26.1.7, 26.1.8, 26.2.1, 26.2.2, 26.2.3, 26.2.4, 26.3.1, 26.3.2, 26.3.3, 26.3.4, 26.3.5, 26.3.7, 26.3.8, 31.2.3, 33.4.2, 33.4.3

Revised 1999

**MODEL POLICY  
SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

It is the responsibility of each individual employee to refrain from sexual harassment, and it is the right of each individual employee to work in an environment free from sexual harassment.

**DEFINITION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

According to the Illinois Human Rights Act, sexual harassment is defined as:

Any unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors or any conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of an individual's employment;
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

The courts have determined that sexual harassment is a form of discrimination under Title VII of the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended in 1991.

One such example is a case where an individual is terminated by a supervisor or is denied employment opportunities and benefits after rejecting the supervisor's sexual advances or request(s) for sexual favors. Another example is where an individual is subjected to conduct by co-workers because of his or her gender which makes it difficult for the employee to perform his or her job.

Other conduct, which may constitute sexual harassment, includes:

- **Verbal:** Sexual innuendos, suggestive comments, insults, humor, and jokes about sex, anatomy or gender-specific traits, sexual propositions, threats, repeated requests for dates, or statements about other employees, even outside of their presence, of a sexual nature.
- **Non-Verbal:** Suggestive or insulting sounds (whistling), leering, obscene gestures, sexually suggestive bodily gestures, "catcalls," "smacking," or "kissing" noises.
- **Visual:** Posters, signs, pin-ups, or slogans of a sexual nature.
- **Physical:** Touching, unwelcome hugging or kissing, pinching, brushing the body, any coerced sexual act, or actual assault.

While the most commonly recognized forms of sexual harassment involve the types of conduct described above, non-sexual conduct can also constitute a violation of the applicable laws when that conduct is directed at the victim



**Addendum 2, Governor's Model Policy on Sexual Harassment**

because of his or her gender (for example, a female employee who reports to work every day and finds her tools stolen, her work station filled with trash, and her equipment disabled by her male co-workers because they resent having to work with a woman).

The most severe and overt forms of sexual harassment are easier to determine. On the other end of the spectrum, some sexual harassment is more subtle and depends, to some extent, on individual perception and interpretation. The courts will assess sexual harassment by a standard of what would offend a "reasonable person."

For this reason, every supervisor and employee must remember that seemingly "harmless" and subtle actions may lead to sexual harassment complaints. The use of terms such as "honey," "darling," and "sweetheart" is objectionable to many women who believe that these terms undermine their authority and their ability to deal with men on an equal and professional level. And while use of these terms by an individual with authority over a female employee will rarely constitute an adverse employment action, it may lead to the creation of a hostile work environment.

Another example is the use of a compliment that could potentially be interpreted as sexual in nature. Below are three statements that might be made about the appearance of a woman in the workplace:

"That's an attractive dress you have on."

"That's an attractive dress. It really looks good on you."

"That's an attractive dress. You really fill it out well."

The first statement appears to be simply a compliment. The last is the most likely to be perceived as sexual harassment, depending on individual perceptions and values. To avoid the possibility of offending an employee, it is best to follow a course of conduct above reproach, or to err on the side of caution.

Sexual harassment is unacceptable misconduct, which affects both genders. Sexual harassment will often involve a man's conduct directed at a woman. However, it can also involve a woman harassing a man or harassment between members of the same gender.

**RESPONSIBILITY OF INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEES**

Each individual employee has the responsibility to refrain from sexual harassment in the workplace.

Any individual employee who sexually harasses a fellow worker is, of course, liable for his or her individual conduct.

The harassing employee will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge in accordance with departmental policy or a collective bargaining agreement, as appropriate.

**RESPONSIBILITY OF SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL**

Each supervisor is responsible for maintaining the workplace free of sexual harassment. This is accomplished by promoting a professional environment and by dealing with sexual harassment as with all other forms of employee misconduct. It must be remembered that supervisors are the first line of defense against sexual harassment. By setting the right example, a supervisor may discourage his or her employees from acting inappropriately. In addition, supervisors will often be the first to spot objectionable conduct or the first to receive a complaint about conduct which he or she did not observe.

The courts and the Illinois Human Rights Commission have found that organizations as well as supervisors can be held liable for damages related to sexual harassment by a manager, supervisor, employee, or third party (an individual who is not an employee but does business with an organization, such as a contractor, customer, sales representative, or repair person).

Liability is either based on an organization's responsibility to maintain a certain level of order and discipline among employees, or on the supervisor, acting as an agent of the organization. It should be noted that recent United States Supreme Court cases involving sexual harassment claims against supervisors have made the employer's liability for supervisor's actions even more strict. Therefore, supervisors must understand that their adherence to this policy is vitally important, both with regard to their responsibility to maintain a work environment free of harassment and, even more importantly, with regard to their own individual conduct. The law continues to require employers to remain vigilant

**Addendum 2, Governor's Model Policy on Sexual Harassment**

and effectively remedy sexually harassing conduct perpetrated by individual(s) on their co-workers. Supervisors must act quickly and responsibly not only to minimize their own liability but also that of the agency.

Specifically, a supervisor must address an observed incident of sexual harassment or a complaint with equal seriousness, report it, take prompt action to investigate it, implement appropriate disciplinary action, take all necessary steps to eliminate the harassment, and observe strict confidentiality. This also applies to cases where an employee tells the supervisor about behavior considered sexual harassment but does not want to make a formal complaint.

In addition, supervisors must ensure that no retaliation will result against an employee making a sexual harassment complaint.

An agency's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Officer is available to consult with supervisors on the proper procedures to follow.

**PROCEDURES FOR FILING A COMPLAINT**

An employee who either observes or believes herself/himself to be the object of sexual harassment should deal with the incident(s) as directly and firmly as possible by clearly communicating her/his position to the offending employee, her/his supervisor, and the agency EEO Officer. It is not necessary for sexual harassment to be directed at the person making a complaint.

The following steps may also be taken: document or record each incident (what was said or done, the date, the time, and the place). Documentation can be strengthened by written records such as letters, notes, memos, and telephone messages.

All charges, including anonymous complaints, will be accepted and investigated regardless of how the matter comes to the attention of the Agency. However, because of the serious implications of sexual harassment charges and the difficulties associated with their investigation and the questions of credibility involved, the claimant's willing cooperation is a vital component of an effective inquiry and an appropriate outcome.

No one making a complaint will be retaliated against even if a complaint made in good faith is not substantiated. In addition, any witness will be protected from retaliation.

Proper responses to conduct which is believed to be sexual harassment may include the following:

**Direct Communication.** If there is sexual harassing behavior in the workplace, the harassed employee should directly and clearly express her/his objection that the conduct is unwelcome and request that the offending behavior stop. The initial message may be verbal. If subsequent messages are needed, they should be put in writing in a note or a memo.

**Contact With Supervisory Personnel.** At the same time direct communication is undertaken, or in the event the employee feels threatened or intimidated by the situation, the problem must be promptly reported to the immediate supervisor or the EEO Officer. If the harasser is the immediate supervisor, the problem should be reported to the next level of supervision or the EEO Officer. However, the employee experiencing what he or she believes to be sexual harassment must not assume that the employer is aware of this conduct. If there are no witnesses and the victim fails to notify a supervisor or other responsible officer, it is likely the employer will be presumed not to have knowledge of the harassment.

**Formal Written Complaint.** An employee may also report incidents of sexual harassment directly to the EEO Officer. The EEO Officer will counsel the reporting employee and be available to assist with filing a formal complaint. The Department will fully investigate the complaint and advise the complainant and the alleged harasser of the results of the investigation.

**Resolution Outside Department.** Every department, agency, board, and commission has adopted a comprehensive anti-harassment policy. The purpose of this policy is to establish prompt, thorough, and effective procedures for responding to every complaint and incident so that problems can be identified and remedied internally. However, an employee has the right to contact the Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR) or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) about filing a formal complaint. An IDHR complaint must be filed within two years of the alleged incident(s) unless it is a continuing offense. A complaint with the EEOC must

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be filed within 300 days of the alleged incident. Where the employing entity has an effective sexual harassment policy in place and the complaining employee fails to take advantage of that policy and allow the employer an opportunity to address the problem, such an employee may, in certain cases, lose the right to further pursue the claim against the employer.

An employee who is suddenly transferred to a lower paying job or passed over for promotion after filing a complaint with IDHR or EEOC, may file a retaliation charge, also due within two years (IDHR) or 300 days (EEOC) of the alleged retaliation.

An employee who has been physically harassed or threatened while on the job may also have grounds for criminal charges, such as assault or battery.

**FALSE AND FRIVOLOUS COMPLAINTS**

False and frivolous charges refer to cases where the accuser is using a sexual harassment complaint to accomplish some end other than stopping sexual harassment. It does not refer to charges made in good faith which cannot be proven. Given the seriousness of the consequences for the accused, a false and frivolous charge is a severe offense that can itself result in disciplinary action.

| Indicates new or revised items.

**-End of Addendum-**

**ILLINOIS STATE POLICE DIRECTIVE  
PER-033, SEXUAL HARASSMENT  
ADDENDUM 3, GOVERNOR'S MODEL POLICY ON STRENGTHENING  
STATE'S ETHICS LAWS AND COMPLIANCE**

<b>RESCINDS:</b> PER-033, 2025-017, revised 07-24-2025	<b>REVISED:</b> 10-28-2025 <b>2025-028</b>
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**MODEL POLICY  
STRENGTHENING THE STATE'S ETHICS LAWS AND COMPLIANCE**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 2018-02**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER STRENGTHENING THE STATE'S ETHICS LAWS AND COMPLIANCE**

**WHEREAS**, the integrity of the Illinois government and State employees and officers and the confidence of the people of Illinois in their State government is of paramount importance; and

**WHEREAS**, effectively and properly performing government business and maintaining the confidence of the people of Illinois require employees and officers of the State of Illinois to adhere to the highest standards of honesty, integrity, respect and impartiality in their conduct and the performance of their official duties; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Illinois has adopted various laws and regulations intended to promote the honesty, integrity and impartiality of the employees, including but not limited to the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act ("Ethics Act"), 5 ILCS § 430/1-1 et seq. and various Executive Orders issued by the governors of the State of Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order 2016-04 directed the creation of the first State of Illinois Code of Personal Conduct ("Code of Personal Conduct") for all State Employees and updated and strengthened the policies and procedures for investigating and reporting allegations of misconduct by State officeholders, appointees, employees, and vendors, as well as incidents at State facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, in November 2017, Governor Rauner signed into law HB127 and SB402, which amended the Ethics Act to strengthen State laws and policies against sexual harassment; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 15, 2017, CMS updated the Code of Personal Conduct to be consistent with the Ethics Act laws regarding sexual harassment; and

**WHEREAS**, faithfully executing and ensuring compliance with the ethical laws and policies of the State is critical to maintaining the standards of integrity, honesty, respect and impartiality that the people of Illinois deserve; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no state statute, charter, ordinance, rule, regulation, executive order, or agreement that should preempt the duty of any State officer or employee to act ethically and refrain from sexual harassment under the Ethics Act and Code of Personal Conduct, including collective bargaining agreements.

**WHEREAS**, the State of Illinois should look to best practices to coordinate sexual harassment training and awareness, as well as all other ethics compliance; and

**WHEREAS**, focusing resources and attention on compliance as a critical government function aligns with the Ethics Act and Code of Personal Conduct and borrows from private sector compliance models; and

**WHEREAS**, strengthening sexual harassment investigation requirements and training at State Agencies and creating a Chief Compliance Office within the Office of the Governor is timely and will significantly aid the State's critical interest in preventing sexual harassment;

**THEREFORE**, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of Illinois, by virtue of my executive authority to establish and enforce ethical standards for the executive branch and reassign functions among or reorganize executive agencies, vested in me by Section 8 and Section 11 of Article V and Section 2 of Article XIII of the Constitution of the State of Illinois, do hereby order as follows:

**Addendum 3, Governor's Model Policy on Strengthening the State's Ethics Laws and Compliance****I. DEFINITIONS**

"Ethics Officer" means the individual designated under 5 ILCS 420/20-23 by the head of each State agency under the jurisdiction of the Executive Ethics Commission to provide guidance to officers and employees in the interpretation and implementation of the Ethics Act.

"Sexual Harassment" means any unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors or any conduct of a sexual nature when: (i) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment; (ii) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or (iii) such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. For purposes of this definition, the phrase "working environment" is not limited to a physical location an employee is assigned to perform his or her duties and does not require an employment relationship.

"State Employees" means all officers, employees (including without limitation full-time, part-time, and contractual employees), appointees (including without limitation paid and unpaid appointees), and persons holding similar positions in the Executive Branch of the State of Illinois under the jurisdiction of the Governor.

"State Agencies" means any office, department, agency, board, commission, or authority of the Executive Branch of the State of Illinois under the jurisdiction of the Governor.

"Supervisor" means an officer, a member, or a State employee who has the authority to direct the work performance of a State employee or who has authority to take corrective action regarding any violation of a law, rule, or regulation of which the State employee complains.

**II. APPLICABILITY OF ETHICS AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT LAWS**

All State Employees and State Agencies are subject to and bound by the Ethics Act. The Ethics Act shall hereby be supreme above all other laws of the State and shall prevail and control in the case of any conflict with other statutes, charters, ordinances, rules, regulations, executive orders or agreements, including collective bargaining agreements.

**III. CREATION OF THE CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICE, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

A Chief Compliance Office is hereby created within the Office of the Governor. The Chief Compliance Office shall be led by a Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO") who shall be a licensed attorney. In addition to any other duties and responsibilities requested by the Governor, the CCO will aim to foster a culture of ethics and compliance within State Agencies by providing clear policies, procedures and trainings for employees; detect, report and address allegations of misconduct; and work with Ethics Officers to provide State Agencies and State Employees with the tools and guidance to comply with applicable laws and regulations.

The Governor shall name a Chief Ethics Officer and Chief Diversity Officer, who, in addition to any other duties and responsibilities requested by the Governor, shall be a part of the Chief Compliance Office. The Chief Compliance Office may also include any other individual that the CCO determines would aid in the execution of the duties and obligations of the Chief Compliance Office and the Ethics Act. The CCO and Chief Ethics Officer shall have the rights, duties and obligations granted to Ethics Officers under 5 ILCS 420/20-23. The Chief Ethics Officer shall also act as liaison and advisor to Ethics Officers of State Agencies. The Chief Diversity Officer shall advise the CCO and Chief Ethics Officer on sexual harassment allegations and investigations that involve issues of diversity.

**IV. REASSIGNMENT OF INVESTIGATIVE FUNCTIONS FOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS**

The Ethics Act and Code of Personal Conduct state that State Employees should immediately report allegations of sexual harassment to a supervisor, ethics officer, the Office of Executive Inspector General for

**Addendum 3, Governor's Model Policy on Strengthening the State's Ethics Laws and Compliance**

the Agencies of the Illinois Governor ("OEIG") or the Department of Human Rights ("DHR"). To ensure allegations of sexual harassment are thoroughly investigated, repeat offenders are identified, and victims are not subject to continued sexual harassment, Supervisors and Ethics Officers must adhere to the following procedures and assignment of functions.

1. **Sexual Harassment Investigations.** Supervisors shall immediately report all allegations of sexual harassment received, directly or indirectly, to the State Agency's Ethics Officer. In addition, to the extent any State Agency permits employees to report sexual harassment allegations to State Agency Equal Employment Opportunity-Affirmative Action Officers, such Officers shall also immediately report all allegations of sexual harassment received, directly or indirectly, to the State Agency's Ethics Officer. Unless the allegation is immediately referred to the OEIG and the OEIG specifically instructs the Ethics Officer to not investigate the matter until further instruction from the OEIG, the Ethics Officers shall ensure the State Agency completes an initial review of each allegation of sexual harassment within ten (10) business days of receipt of the allegation to determine whether further investigation or action is warranted. If further investigation is warranted, the Ethics Officer shall ensure the State Agency completes its investigation and make any referrals for management action or disciplinary proceedings within thirty (30) days of receipt of the allegation. Investigations may be conducted by Ethics Officers, Supervisors or other agents as the Ethics Officer determines appropriate, but all investigations must be conducted in coordination with the State Agency representative who received sexual harassment investigation training as provided in Section IV(3) of this Executive Order.
2. **Reporting to the Chief Compliance Office.** Ethics Officers shall notify the Chief Compliance Office of all sexual harassment allegations that are reported to the Ethics Officer and Supervisors within his/her State Agency and any related findings and remedial or disciplinary measures recommended or taken. All communications or reports shared among and between the State Agency representatives and the Chief Compliance Office regarding sexual harassment allegations and investigations shall remain confidential between the parties directly involved unless otherwise required by law, consistent with the Freedom of Information Act. Nothing in this Executive Order may be construed to modify the rights or obligations of State Employees and Ethics Officers under Executive Order 2016-04 to report misconduct to the OEIG.
3. **Sexual Harassment Investigation Training.** By December 31, 2018, and every two years thereafter, at least one representative from each State Agency shall complete training on best practices for investigations of alleged sexual harassment. Training programs shall be overseen and approved by the CCO. Ethics Officers must file a certificate of compliance with this requirement to the Chief Compliance Office by December 31, 2018 and every two years thereafter.
4. **Reports made to DHR, OEIG and law enforcement.** Victims shall continue to have the independent right to report allegations of sexual harassment to the DHR or the OEIG. Nothing in this Executive Order may be construed to modify the OEIG's or the DHR's rules, policies, procedures, rights or obligations relating to allegations of sexual harassment filed before those bodies. This Executive Order is intended to strengthen sexual harassment investigation and training requirements at the agency level. In addition, nothing in this Executive Order shall be construed to modify any individual's rights and obligations to report criminal activity, including but not limited to assault, to state or local law enforcement.

**V. INCONSISTENT ACTS**

From the effective date of this Executive Order, and as long as such Executive Order remains in effect, the operation of any prior act of the General Assembly inconsistent with this reorganization is suspended to the extent of the inconsistency.

**VI. SAVINGS CLAUSE**

This Executive Order does not contravene any rules, regulation or other agency actions, except as may be provided by Sections II, III and IV.

**VII. PRIOR EXECUTIVE ORDERS**

This Executive Order supersedes any contrary provision of any other prior Executive Order.

**VIII. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE**

If any part of this Executive Order is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect. The provisions of this Executive Order are severable.

**IX. FILINGS**

This Executive Order shall be filed with the Secretary of State. A copy of this Executive Order shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Senate and to the Clerk of the House of Representatives and, for the purpose of preparing a revisory bill, to the Legislative Reference Bureau.

**X. EFFECTIVE DATE**

Provided that neither house of the General Assembly disapproves of this Executive Order by the record vote of a majority of the members elected, this Executive Order shall take effect 60 days after its delivery to the General Assembly.

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**Bruce Rauner, Governor**

**-End of Addendum-**