

<b>SUBJECT: Maintaining a Professional Workplace</b>	<b>NUMBER: 50.010.03</b>
<b>DIVISION: Human Resource Services Division</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/27/07</b>
<b>APPROVED: Signature on file with the Human Resource Services Division</b>	

**POLICY STATEMENT:** It is the policy of the State of Oregon to create and maintain a work environment that is respectful, professional and free from inappropriate workplace behavior.

**AUTHORITY:** ORS 240.145 and ORS 240.250

**APPLICABILITY:** All employees, including state temporary employees

**ATTACHMENTS:** N/A

**DEFINITIONS:**

See also HRSD State Policy 10.000.01, Definitions; and OAR 105-010-0000

**Agency:** Refers to state agencies, boards and commissions

**Professional Workplace Behavior:** Supporting the values and mission of the State of Oregon and the agency, building positive relationships with others, communicating in a respectful manner, holding oneself accountable and pursuing change within the system.

**Inappropriate Workplace Behavior:** Unwelcome or unwanted conduct or behavior that causes a negative impact or disruption to the workplace or the business of the state, or results in the erosion of employee morale and is not associated with an employee's protected class status.

Examples of inappropriate workplace behavior include but are not limited to, comments or behaviors of an individual or group that disparage, demean or show disrespect for another employee, a manager, a subordinate, a customer, a contractor or a visitor in the workplace.

Inappropriate workplace behavior does not include actions of performance management such as supervisor instructions, expectations or feedback, administering of disciplinary actions, or investigatory meetings.

Inappropriate workplace behavior does not include assigned, requested or unsolicited constructive peer feedback on projects or work.

**Protected Class Under Federal Law:** Race; color; national origin; sex (includes pregnancy-related conditions); religion; age (40 and older); disability; a person who uses leave covered by the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act; a person who uses

Military Leave; a person who associates with a protected class; a person who opposes unlawful employment practices, files a complaint or testifies about violations or possible violations; and any other protected class as defined by federal law.

**Protected Class Under Oregon State Law:** All Federally protected classes, plus: age (18 and older); physical or mental disability; injured worker; a person who uses leave covered by the Oregon Family Leave Act; marital status; family relationship; sexual orientation; whistleblower; expunged juvenile record; and any other protected class as defined by state law.

## **POLICY**

(1) It is the policy of the State of Oregon to create and maintain a work environment that is respectful, professional and free from inappropriate workplace behavior.

**(a) Conduct** Employees at every level of the agency should foster an environment that encourages professionalism and discourages disrespectful behavior. All employees are expected to behave respectfully and professionally and refrain from engaging in inappropriate workplace behavior.

**(b) Addressing Inappropriate Workplace Behavior**

(A) Supervisors must address inappropriate behavior that they observe or experience and should do so as close to the time of the occurrence as possible and appropriate.

(B) If an employee observes or experiences inappropriate workplace behavior and the employee feels comfortable in doing so, they should:

(i) redirect inappropriate conversations or behavior to workplace business; and/or

(ii) tell an offending employee his/her behavior is offensive and ask him/her to stop.

**(c) Reporting Inappropriate Workplace Behavior**

(A) An employee should report inappropriate workplace behavior he/she experiences or observes to his/her immediate supervisor as soon as practicable. If the employee's immediate supervisor is the one engaging in the inappropriate behavior, the employee should report the behavior to upper management, the agency head or Human Resource section, as soon as practicable. The report may be made orally or in writing.

(B) If past practice exists in the agency, an employee who is represented by a labor union may have a union representative present during regular work hours, when reporting inappropriate workplace behavior and through the process set forth in this policy. The union representative must not be a witness or party to the investigation.

(C) Reporting behavior or conduct directed toward an employee because of his/her protected class status is addressed in DAS Statewide Policy 50.010.01, Discrimination and Harassment Free Workplace.

**(d) Responding to a Report of Inappropriate Workplace Behavior** Inappropriate workplace behavior must be addressed and corrected before it becomes pervasive, causes further workplace disruption or lowers employee morale. Unless the agency decides otherwise, the supervisor of the employee allegedly engaging in the inappropriate workplace behavior must investigate the report as soon as possible.

**(e) Consequences**

(A) Any employee found to have engaged in inappropriate workplace behavior, will be counseled, or, depending on the severity of the behavior, may be subject to discipline, up to and including dismissal.

(B) A supervisor who fails to address inappropriate behavior, will be counseled, or, depending on the severity of the behavior, may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

**(f) Retaliation** Retaliating against someone for reporting or addressing inappropriate workplace behavior is prohibited. The agency will investigate reports of retaliation. Any employee found to have engaged in retaliation may be subject to discipline, up to and including dismissal.