

Can workplace flirting go too far?

Marie felt uncomfortable with her boss's requests to work late and alone with him. It didn't feel right.

Since Pat stopped dating a coworker, their sexual activities had become lunchroom gossip and the butt of disturbing jokes on the production floor.

Martin was shocked when Becky lodged a sexual harassment complaint against him. He thought she enjoyed all the compliments and attention.

When someone says "sexual harassment", what goes through your mind?

A dirty joke? A suggestive touch? A pornographic email? Perhaps a request for a hug, a kiss or even sex with an unspoken hint of preferential treatment if you comply – or the threat of problems if you don't?

Sexual jokes and comments may be one person's attempt at humour or flirting, but if it's unwanted or ongoing after a request to stop, it takes on the face of harassment.

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Stop Right There!

Sexual harassment prevention workshop for employers

Wed May 10
11:30 am to 1 pm
Old Train Station
Orangeville

\$25 includes lunch & handouts
To register:
info@gdacc.ca 941-0490

If these things happened in your workplace, would you know what to do?

- staring, leering, whistling or cat calls
- unwanted, repeated flirting
- inappropriate touching
- sexually offensive pictures displayed
- unwanted sexual requests
- suggestive remarks in person or email

Sexual harassment qualifies as illegal discrimination according to the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Canada Labour Code. Employers have a responsibility to protect employees from such harassment.

Employers and employees pay a human and financial price with low morale, stress-related absences, reduced productivity and legal costs.

Family Transition Place and Carter & Associates are working with the Greater Dufferin Area Chamber of Commerce to present a "Stop Right There!" workshop.

At this workshop, employers can discover the implications of sexual harassment, the elements of an anti-harassment policy, and things to say and do if relationships in their workplace become harassing.

All employment sectors - retail, hospitality, financial, manufacturing, small business, corporations as well as social service and not for profit agencies - are welcome to attend.

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