

RESOLUTION 18 - 09

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A POLICY PROHIBITING SEXUAL HARASSMENT FOR FORD COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Illinois General Assembly has recently enacted Public Act 100-0554, an Act concerning government, which became effective immediately, dated November 16, 2017; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, each governmental unit shall adopt an ordinance or resolution establishing a policy to prohibit sexual harassment; and

WHEREAS, all prior existing sexual harassment policies of FORD COUNTY shall be superseded by the Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment adopted by this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, should any section or provision of this Resolution or the adopted Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment be declared to be invalid, that decision shall not affect the validity of this Resolution or adopted Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the corporate authorities of FORD COUNTY, the following:

Section 1. The Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment, attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference, is hereby adopted.

Section 2. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect on January 9, 2018.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 8th day of January, 2018.

Randy Berger
Randy Berger, County Board Chairman

[Signature]
ATTEST: County Clerk & Recorder

Exhibit A

POLICY PROHIBITING SEXUAL HARASSMENTⁱ

I. PROHIBITION ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT

It is unlawful to harass a person because of that person's sex. 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. All persons have a right to work in an environment free from sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is unacceptable misconduct which affects individuals of all genders and sexual orientations. It is a policy of **Ford County** to prohibit harassment of any person by any County official, agent, employee or agency or office on the basis of sex or gender. All County officials, agents, employees and agencies or offices are prohibited from sexually harassing any person, regardless of any employment relationship or lack thereof.

II. DEFINITION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

This policy adopts the definition of sexual harassment as stated in the Illinois Human Rights Act, which currently defines sexual harassment 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.

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, viewing pornographic material or websites.
- Physical: touching, unwelcome hugging or kissing, pinching, brushing the body, any coerced sexual act or actual assault.
- Textual/Electronic: "sexting" (electronically sending messages with sexual content, including pictures and video), the use of sexually explicit language, harassment, cyber stalking and threats via all forms of electronic communication (e-mail, text/picture/video messages, intranet/on-line postings, blogs, instant messages and social network websites like Facebook and Twitter).

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