

DFEH

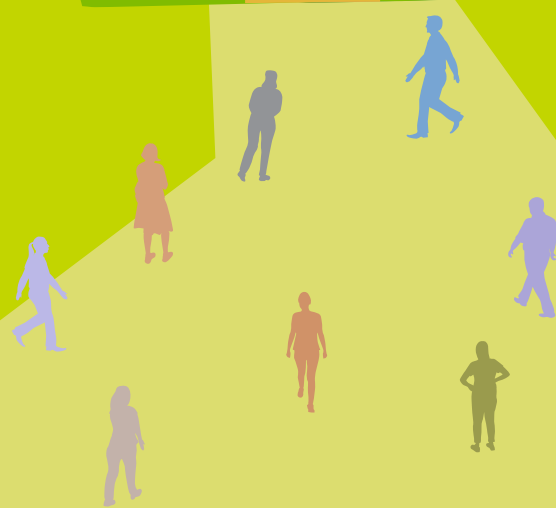


THE DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING
THE MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT
AND HOUSING IS TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA
FROM UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT,
HOUSING AND PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS, AND FROM
THE PERPETRATION OF ACTS OF HATE VIOLENCE AND
HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

CALIFORNIA LAW PROHIBITS WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION & HARASSMENT

The California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) enforces laws that protect you from illegal discrimination and harassment in employment based on your actual or perceived:

- ANCESTRY
- AGE (40 and above)
- COLOR
- DISABILITY (physical, mental, HIV and AIDS)
- GENETIC INFORMATION
- GENDER IDENTITY, GENDER EXPRESSION
- MARITAL STATUS
- MEDICAL CONDITION (genetic characteristics, cancer or a record or history of cancer)
- MILITARY OR VETERAN STATUS
- NATIONAL ORIGIN (includes language use and possession of a driver's license issued to persons unable to prove their presence in the United States is authorized under federal law)
- RACE (including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles. Protective hairstyles includes, but is not limited to, such hairstyles as braids, locks, and twists)
- RELIGION (includes religious dress and grooming practices,)
- SEX/GENDER (includes pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and/or related medical conditions)
- SEXUAL ORIENTATION





THE CALIFORNIA FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING ACT (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 12900 THROUGH 12996) AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS (CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2, SECTIONS 11000 THROUGH 11141):

- 1.** Prohibit harassment of employees, applicants, unpaid interns, volunteers, and independent contractors by any persons and require employers to take all reasonable steps to prevent harassment. This includes a prohibition against sexual harassment, gender harassment, harassment based on pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and/or related medical conditions, as well as harassment based on all other characteristics listed above.
- 2.** Require that all employers provide information to each of their employees on the nature, illegality, and legal remedies that apply to sexual harassment. Employers may either develop their own publications, which must meet standards set forth in California Government Code section 12950, or use material from DFEH.
- 3.** Require employers with 5 or more employees and all public entities to provide training for all employees regarding the prevention of sexual harassment, including harassment based on gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation.
- 4.** Prohibit employers from limiting or prohibiting the use of any language in any workplace unless justified by business necessity. The employer must notify employees of the language restriction and consequences for violation. Also prohibit employers from discriminating against an applicant or employee because they possess a driver's license issued to a person who is unable to prove that their presence in the United States is authorized under federal law.
- 5.** Require employers to reasonably accommodate an employee, unpaid intern, or job applicant's religious beliefs and practices, including the wearing or carrying of religious clothing, jewelry or artifacts, and hair styles, facial hair, or body hair, which are part of an individual's observance of their religious beliefs.
- 6.** Require employers to reasonably accommodate employees or job applicants with disabilities to enable them to perform the essential functions of a job.
- 7.** Permit job applicants, unpaid interns, volunteers, and employees to file complaints with DFEH against an employer, employment agency, or labor union that fails to grant equal employment as required by law.
- 8.** Prohibit discrimination on a protected basis against any job applicant, unpaid intern, or employee in hiring, promotions, assignments, termination, or any term, condition, or privilege of employment.
- 9.** Require employers, employment agencies, and unions to preserve applications, personnel records, and employment referral records for a minimum of four years.
- 10.** Require employers to provide leaves of up to four months to employees disabled because of pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.
- 11.** Require an employer to provide reasonable accommodations requested by an employee, on the advice of their health care provider, related to their pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

- 12.** Require employers of 5 or more persons to allow eligible employees to take up to 12 weeks leave in a 12-month period: to care for their own serious health condition; to care for a child of any age*, spouse, domestic partner, parent**, grandparent, grandchild, or sibling with a serious health condition; to bond with a new child (by birth, adoption, or foster placement); or for certain military exigencies.
- 13.** Require employment agencies to serve all applicants equally, refuse discriminatory job orders, and prohibit employers and employment agencies from making discriminatory pre-hiring inquiries or publishing help-wanted advertisements that express a discriminatory hiring preference.
- 14.** Prohibit unions from discriminating in member admissions or dispatching members to jobs.
- 15.** Prohibit retaliation against a person who opposes, reports, or assists another person to oppose unlawful discrimination.

FILING A COMPLAINT

The law provides for remedies for individuals who experience prohibited discrimination, harassment, or retaliation in the workplace. These remedies include hiring, front pay, back pay, promotion, reinstatement, cease-and-desist orders, expert witness fees, reasonable attorney's fees and costs, punitive damages, and emotional distress damages.

Job applicants, unpaid interns, and employees: If you believe you have experienced discrimination, harassment, or retaliation you may file a complaint with DFEH. Independent contractors and volunteers: If you believe you have been harassed, you may file a complaint with DFEH.

Complaints must be filed within three years of the last act of discrimination/harassment/retaliation. For victims who are under the age of eighteen, not later than three years after the last act of discrimination/harassment/retaliation or one year after the victim's eighteenth birthday, whichever is later.

If you have been subjected to discrimination, harassment, or retaliation at work, or have been improperly denied family or medical leave, file a complaint with DFEH.

TO FILE A COMPLAINT

Department of Fair Employment and Housing
dfeh.ca.gov
Toll Free: 800.884.1684
TTY: 800.700.2320

If you have a disability that requires a reasonable accommodation, DFEH can assist you with your complaint. Contact us through any method above or, for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing or have speech disabilities, through the California Relay Service (711).

DFEH is committed to providing access to our materials in an alternative format as a reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities when requested.

Government Code section 12950 and California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 11013, require all employers to post this document. It must be conspicuously posted in hiring offices, on employee bulletin boards, in employment agency waiting rooms, union halls, and other places employees gather. Any employer whose workforce at any facility or establishment consists of more than 10% of non-English speaking persons must also post this notice in the appropriate language or languages.

* "Child" means a biological, adopted, or foster child, a stepchild, a legal ward, or a child of an employee or the employee's domestic partner, or a person to whom the employee stands in loco parentis.
** "Parent" includes a biological, foster, or adoptive parent, a parent-in-law, a stepparent, a legal guardian, or other person who stood in loco parentis to the employee when the employee was a child.

TRANSGENDER RIGHTS IN THE WORKPLACE

DFEH



WHAT DOES “TRANSGENDER” MEAN?

Transgender is a term used to describe people whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. Gender expression is defined by the law to mean a “person’s gender-related appearance and behavior whether or not stereotypically associated with the person’s assigned sex at birth.” Gender identity and gender expression are protected characteristics under the Fair Employment and Housing Act. That means that employers may not discriminate against someone because they identify as transgender or gender non-conforming. This includes the perception that someone is transgender or gender non-conforming.

WHAT IS A GENDER TRANSITION?

1. “Social transition” involves a process of socially aligning one’s gender with the internal sense of self (e.g., changes in name and pronoun, bathroom facility usage, participation in activities like sports teams).

2. “Physical transition” refers to medical treatments an individual may undergo to physically align their body with internal sense of self (e.g., hormone therapies or surgical procedures).

A person does not need to complete any particular step in a gender transition in order to be protected by the law. An employer may not condition its treatment or accommodation of a transitioning employee upon completion of a particular step in a gender transition.

FAQ FOR EMPLOYERS

• What is an employer allowed to ask?

Employers may ask about an employee’s employment history, and may ask for personal references, in addition to other non-discriminatory questions. An interviewer should not ask questions designed to detect a person’s gender identity, including asking about their marital status, spouse’s name, or relation of household members to one another. Employers should not ask questions about a person’s body or whether they plan to have surgery.

• How do employers implement dress codes and grooming standards?

An employer who requires a dress code must enforce it in a non-discriminatory manner. This means that, unless an employer can demonstrate business necessity, each employee must be allowed to dress in accordance with their gender identity and gender expression. Transgender or gender non-conforming employees may not be held to any different standard of dress or grooming than any other employee.

• What are the obligations of employers when it comes to bathrooms, showers, and locker rooms?

All employees have a right to safe and appropriate restroom and locker room facilities. This includes the right to use a restroom or locker room that corresponds to the employee’s gender identity, regardless of the employee’s assigned sex at birth. In addition, where possible, an employer should provide an easily accessible unisex single stall bathroom for use by any employee who desires increased privacy, regardless of the underlying reason. Use of a unisex single stall restroom should always be a matter of choice. No employee should be forced to use one either as a matter of policy or due to harassment in a gender-appropriate facility. Unless exempted by other provisions of state law, all single-user toilet facilities in any business establishment, place of public accommodation, or state or local government agency must be identified as all-gender toilet facilities.

FILING A COMPLAINT

If you believe you are a victim of discrimination you may, within three years* of the discrimination, file a complaint of discrimination by contacting DFEH.

To schedule an appointment, contact the Communication Center below.

If you have a disability that requires a reasonable accommodation, the DFEH can assist you by scribing your intake by phone or, for individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing or have speech disabilities, through the California Relay Service (711), or you can contact us below.

CONTACT US

Toll Free: (800) 884-1684
TTY: (800) 700-2320
contact.center@dfeh.ca.gov
www.dfeh.ca.gov