I. **POLICY**

All employees are entitled to a work environment free from sexual harassment. The Department prohibits any form of sexual harassment.

II. **PROCEDURE**

A. **Purpose**

The purpose of this directive is to establish written procedures governing the responsibilities of staff for compliance with Department policy prohibiting sexual harassment.

B. **Applicability**

This directive is applicable to all correctional facilities, offices, programs and parole services within the Department.

C. **Facility Reviews**

A facility review of this directive shall be conducted at least annually.

D. **Designees**

Individuals specified in this directive may delegate stated responsibilities to another person or persons unless otherwise directed.

E. **Definitions**

Chief Administrator – the Chief Administrative Officer of a correctional center or program site; or for all other offices, the respective Deputy Director or Chief of the appropriate division or the Assistant Director of the Department.

Sexual Harassment – unwelcome sexual advances, 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 an 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.

Supervisor – an employee officially assigned on an on-going basis to: assign, review and control work of subordinate staff; complete and sign performance evaluations; recommend compensation; recommend and implement discipline; approve time off and make recommendations to hire, fire, promote and demote. This does not include lead workers. Higher level employees than the supervisor within the same chain-of-command shall have the same responsibilities for purposes of this directive as the supervisor.

F. General Provisions

1. Sexual harassment is also a form of sex discrimination that violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

2. For purposes of this directive, examples of sexual harassment include but may not be limited to:
   a. Unwelcome sexual conduct in order to receive an employment opportunity.
   b. Denial of employment opportunities when an individual does not submit to unwelcome sexual advances.
   c. Threats with adverse employment consequences if the individual does not submit to unwelcome sexual advances.
   d. Verbal conduct such as sexual innuendos, suggestive comments, insults, humor or 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.
   e. Non-Verbal conduct such as suggestive or insulting sounds, such as catcalls, smacking, kissing noises, whistling, leering, obscene gestures or sexually suggestive bodily gestures.
   f. Visual displays such as posters, signs, pin-ups, electronic mail, internet material, cartoons, graffiti, slogans or other material of a sexual nature.
   g. Physical conduct such as unwelcome hugging, touching, kissing, pinching, brushing the body, coerced sexual acts or actual assaults.
   h. Non-sexual conduct because of gender which unreasonably interferes with the employee’s ability to perform his or her job.
   i. Digital harassment including threats of physical assault of a sexual nature, intimidation, offensive jokes, epithets or name calling, ridicule or mockery, request for sexual favors, or lewd, obscene or offensive messages or pictures sent via state electronic devices.

3. This directive shall be posted at each facility and at each staffed building in the general office in prominent and accessible locations and in other locations where notices to employees are customarily posted.

4. The Chief Administrator shall ensure that all current and new employees have access to and are advised of the contents of this directive on an annual basis. A copy of this directive need not be given to each employee; however, documentation including the employees' signatures shall be
maintained to verify that each employee has been advised of this directive annually. A copy of
this directive shall be made available to any employee upon request.

5. Training on sexual harassment prevention and the agency’s sexual harassment policy shall be
included in pre-service training for new employees and as a component of ongoing training
programs.

6. All employees with supervisory responsibilities shall complete training, including prevention of
sexual harassment and handling of sexual harassment complaints. This training shall be
completed within the first six months of initial appointment to a supervisory position.

7. The Office of Affirmative Action shall be available to provide assistance on the complaint process
to any employee who believes that he or she has been subjected to sexual harassment.

8. Employees are urged to use the Department’s internal complaint process to obtain a prompt,
effective resolution to sexual harassment complaints. However, an employee may 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 300 days of the
alleged incident(s) unless it is a continuing offense. A complaint with the EEOC must be filed
within 300 days. 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.

G. Requirements

1. Employees shall refrain from sexual harassment.

2. Any employee who engages in or knowingly condones sexual harassment shall be subject to
disciplinary action, including discharge.

3. Each supervisor shall maintain a workplace free of sexual harassment by promoting a
professional environment and by addressing an observed or reported incident of sexual
harassment as a serious form of employee misconduct.

H. Internal Complaint Process

1. Any employee who witnesses, is subjected to, or becomes aware of such conduct should:
   a. Immediately document the incident on an Incident Report, DOC 0434, or on an Equal
      Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Complaint Form, DOC 0279.

      **NOTE:** The DOC 0279 shall be available from the Office of Affirmative Action, from the
      Department HR offices, or may be accessed from the Department’s internal website and
      submitted electronically to DOC.AffirmativeAction@illinois.gov.

   b. Report the incident to his or her supervisor, Ethics Officer or Department’s Affirmative
      Action Administrator or notify the next person in the chain of command if the employee’s
      immediate supervisor is the person alleged to have engaged in harassment.

   c. Directly and clearly express objection to the offending person and request that the
      offensive behavior stop.

2. A supervisor receiving an oral or written report of sexual harassment shall notify the Chief
   Administrator of the allegations in a timely manner. This requirement also applies to anonymous
   complaints or cases where the employee tells the supervisor about behavior considered sexual
harassment but does not want to make a formal complaint. The Chief Administrator shall notify
the Department’s Affirmative Action Administrator. Initial notification may be made verbally with a
follow up report of the allegations documented in writing.

3. The Chief Administrator shall consider ways to minimize the possibility of continued sexual
harassment or retaliation while the allegations are under review or investigation such as
reassigning the accused employee. Prior to reassigning the alleged victim, the Chief
Administrator shall consult with the Office of Affirmative Action.

4. The Chief Administrator shall initiate a review of the allegations and respond as soon as possible
within five working days, or upon the employee’s return to work, by taking one or more of the
following actions:
   a. Discuss the allegations with the reporting employee;
   b. Discuss the allegations with the charged employee;
   c. Refer the incident to the Office of Affirmative Action for formal investigation;
   d. Refer the charged employee for disciplinary action, if warranted; or
   e. Take other corrective action.

5. Failure to report allegations of misconduct shall be cause for discipline, up to and including
discharge.

6. Allegations of conduct which may constitute criminal activity shall be reported in accordance with

7. In all cases, the Chief Administrator shall:
   a. Within five working days of being advised of the allegations, or upon the employee’s
      return to work, inform the alleged victim in writing of the action being taken;
   b. Submit to the Office of Affirmative Action a copy of any written complaint, a summary
      of any verbal complaint, and a copy of the response to the alleged victim; and
   c. When it is determined that sexual harassment has occurred, take prompt, appropriate
corrective action, including discipline, lock out, or other similar measures. If the evidence
   is inconclusive, the Chief Administrator shall consider whether preventative measures
   such as training or monitoring should be employed.
   d. Submit to the Office of Affirmative Action a copy of all employee disciplinary decisions
   involving sexual harassment within 60 days of the investigative outcome.

I. **Investigations**

1. The Office of Affirmative Action shall promptly investigate complaints referred for investigation.
Internal Investigations shall submit a copy of any investigation report in which sexual harassment
issues were brought forth during the course of an investigation to the Office of Affirmative Action.
All complaints of sexual harassment shall be investigated thoroughly, and appropriate action shall
be taken when warranted.

2. The Office of Affirmative Action shall ensure that the Chief Administrator, the alleged victim and
the employee alleged to have engaged in sexual harassment are informed of the outcome of any
formal investigation.
3. Employees are required to cooperate in any investigation into a complaint of sexual harassment. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

J. **Department Volunteers, Interns, Contractual Personnel and Persons Employed by Contractors**

1. Volunteers, interns, contractual personnel and employees of contractors shall refrain from sexual harassment.

2. Training on the Department’s sexual harassment policy shall be included in orientation of volunteers and interns and pre-service training of contractual personnel and employees of contractors.

3. A volunteer, intern, contractor or employee of a contractor who believes that he or she has been subjected to sexual harassment in connection with their service to the Department shall immediately report the incident in writing to the Department employee overseeing the services of the volunteer, intern, contractor or person employed by a contractor, the Volunteer Service Coordinator, when applicable, the Chief Administrator or the Office of Affirmative Action.

4. Reports of sexual harassment involving a volunteer, intern, contractual personnel or employee of a contractor in cases where the harasser or victim is an employee of the Department shall be investigated by the Department. The Chief Administrator and the Office of Affirmative Action shall take the same actions to respond as required in Paragraph II.H.

5. Reports of sexual harassment involving a volunteer, intern, contractual personnel or employee of a contractor that do not involve an employee of the Department shall be reported to the Office of Affirmative Action for a determination of the appropriate action to be taken.

6. Volunteers, interns, contractual personnel and employees of contractors are required to cooperate in any sexual harassment investigation conducted by the Department.

K. **Retaliation**

1. Retaliatory action against anyone alleging sexual harassment in good faith is prohibited even if the complaint is not substantiated. However, given the seriousness of the consequences for the accused, any employee who knowingly makes a false charge or provides false information, including, but not limited to, false information provided in statements, incident reports, correspondence or an interview, shall be subject to disciplinary action, including discharge. If a sexual harassment violation or intentional false reporting occurs, the consequences may be found in the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, 5 ILCS 430/50-5. In the occasion this section conflicts with the Whistleblower Act (740 ILCS 174) or Section 15-5 of the Ethics Act, the applicable statute will take precedence.

2. An employee may not intentionally interfere with another employee’s exercise of, or retaliate against an employee or witness for exercising, the right to grieve or file a complaint through established procedures; or retaliate against an employee or witness for filing a complaint, providing information to an investigatory official or testifying in an official proceeding.

L. **Confidentiality**

Information pertaining to a complaint of sexual harassment shall be kept confidential and shall only be disclosed in accordance with this directive or to persons with a need to know the information.