

# Member Conduct – Harassment and Discrimination

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## Intent

Larch Street Kids has adopted this policy to ensure the protection of our families, employees, and visitors, from harassment and discrimination.

## Policy

1. Larch Street Kids shall strive to provide a harassment and discrimination free environment.
2. Larch Street Kids strictly prohibits harassment and discrimination, and will investigate all reported incidents and apply appropriate disciplinary action.
3. Larch Street Kids will maintain confidentiality and privacy in all matters when handling a report of harassment and/or discrimination, and shall conduct investigations in a private and confidential manner.
4. As appropriate, Larch Street Kids may be required to contact the authorities where a criminal offense has transpired.
5. Larch Street Kids will communicate the Anti-Harassment and Discrimination policy to all clients and employees, and ensure that they understand and agree.
6. Larch Street Kids will take all reasonable measures to prevent harassment and discrimination.
7. In the event that an incident of harassment and/or discrimination occurs on Larch Street Kids premises, the incident should be reported as soon as possible to (Name, Title, and Appropriate Authority). The incident will be investigated appropriately.
8. Larch Street Kids will not tolerate or condone any retaliatory actions resulting from a report of harassment or discrimination.
9. Larch Street Kids strictly prohibits false and/or malicious reports of harassment or discrimination. In the event that it is determined through the investigation process that the report was falsified and/or otherwise made with malicious intent, Larch Street Kids will take appropriate disciplinary action.

## Definitions

The following will assist members and staff in the identification of harassment and discrimination.

1. **Discrimination** – Discrimination is defined as an occurrence where a person is treated less favorably or fairly than another person or group of people in the same or similar circumstances because of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, record of offences, marital status, same-sex partnership status, family status or disability.
2. **Harassment** – Harassment is defined as any interaction between individuals that can be characterized as unwelcome, intimidation, bullying, violence, or misconduct. Larch Street Kids rejects and entirely disapproves of all harassment based on the grounds of: race (i.e. color, ethnicity, origin, nationality, and descent), sex, marital status, age, sexual orientation, gender history, religious beliefs, political convictions, disability, or medical condition. Such acts include:

- Profane language and inappropriate comments or gestures
- Inappropriate physical conduct;
- Creating an intimidating or offensive working environment; or
- Creating a degrading, humiliating, or hostile work environment.

3. **Sexual Harassment** – Defined as any interaction between individuals, regardless of gender, that can be characterized as unwelcome sexual advances or misconduct. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Requests for sexual favors;
- Verbal conduct of a sexual nature;
- Physical conduct of a sexual nature;
- Submission to sexual favors or conduct as being implied as condition of an employee's employment;
- Implying that rejection of sexual advances will affect employment decisions regarding that individual;
- Creating a sexually intimidating or offensive working environment; or
- Creating a sexually degrading, humiliating, or hostile work environment.
- Offensive sexual comments, abuse or innuendo about how someone talks, dresses or acts;
- Jokes or gestures of a sexual nature;
- Material or offensive pictures that are displayed publicly, circulated, put on someone's work space or belongings, or on a computer or fax machine;
- Staring or leering in a sexual manner;
- Telephone calls or e-mail of a sexual nature;
- Sexual assault (a criminal offence).

4. **Complainant** – A person who is or has been subjected to the alleged discrimination.

5. **Respondent** – Someone who is alleged to have exhibited conduct that is the subject of a complaint.

6. **Retaliatory Acts** – Any retaliation, retribution, or reprisal by a Respondent against any Complainant who reports an incident of alleged harassment or discrimination, or against any employee who testifies or otherwise participates in an investigation or hearing relating to the allegation of harassment or discrimination.