

# IF YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO WORK, Don't let anyone take it away.



**If you have the legal right to work in the United States, there are laws to protect you against discrimination in the workplace.**

**You should know that –**

- In most cases, employers cannot deny you a job or fire you because of your national origin or citizenship status or refuse to accept your legally acceptable documents.
- Employers cannot reject documents because they have a future expiration date.

- Employers cannot terminate you because of E-Verify without giving you an opportunity to resolve the problem.
- In most cases, employers cannot require you to be a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident.

If any of these things have happened to you, contact the Office of Special Counsel (OSC).

For assistance in your own language:  
Phone: 1-800-255-7688 or (202) 616-5594  
For the hearing impaired:  
TTY 1-800-237-2515 or (202) 616-5525

E-mail: [oscrt@usdoj.gov](mailto:oscrt@usdoj.gov)

Or write to:  
U.S. Department of Justice – CRT  
Office of Special Counsel – NYA  
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20530

**U.S. Department of Justice  
Civil Rights Division**

**Office of Special Counsel for  
Immigration-Related Unfair  
Employment Practices**



[www.justice.gov/crt/about/osc](http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/osc)

# EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

## EMPLOYEE POLYGRAPH PROTECTION ACT

The Employee Polygraph Protection Act prohibits most private employers from using lie detector tests either for pre-employment screening or during the course of employment.

### PROHIBITIONS

Employers are generally prohibited from requiring or requesting any employee or job applicant to take a lie detector test, and from discharging, disciplining, or discriminating against an employee or prospective employee for refusing to take a test or for exercising other rights under the Act.

### EXEMPTIONS

Federal, State and local governments are not affected by the law. Also, the law does not apply to tests given by the Federal Government to certain private individuals engaged in national security-related activities.

The Act permits polygraph (a kind of lie detector) tests to be administered in the private sector, subject to restrictions, to certain prospective employees of security service firms (armored car, alarm, and guard), and of pharmaceutical manufacturers, distributors and dispensers.

The Act also permits polygraph testing, subject to restrictions, of certain employees of private firms who are reasonably suspected of involvement in a workplace incident (theft, embezzlement, etc.) that resulted in economic loss to the employer.

The law does not preempt any provision of any State or local law or any collective bargaining agreement which is more restrictive with respect to lie detector tests.

### EXAMINEE RIGHTS

Where polygraph tests are permitted, they are subject to numerous strict standards concerning the conduct and length of the test. Examinees have a number of specific rights, including the right to a written notice before testing, the right to refuse or discontinue a test, and the right not to have test results disclosed to unauthorized persons.

### ENFORCEMENT

The Secretary of Labor may bring court actions to restrain violations and assess civil penalties against violators. Employees or job applicants may also bring their own court actions.

**THE LAW REQUIRES EMPLOYERS TO DISPLAY THIS POSTER WHERE EMPLOYEES AND JOB APPLICANTS CAN READILY SEE IT.**



WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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