"CAN I ASK THAT?" LEGAL INTERVIEWING

THE TAKEAWAY" FOR MANAGERS™



Questions Not to Ask and Why



It's illegal to discriminate against an applicant based on race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, sexual orientation, and gender-identity),



national origin (including citizenship and immigration status), age (if 40 or older), disability, genetic information, or political affiliation.



Stay focused on the job requirements, and avoid personal questions that might be construed as discriminatory.



Make sure you ask the same questions of all the candidates, male or female, younger or older, regardless of race, ethnicity, disability, religious attire, or accent.



Questions Not to Ask and Why

THE TAKEAWAY Treat everyone the same.



How to Frame Your Questions



Frame your questions in such a way that they're only about the applicant in relation to his or her suitability to perform the essential functions of the job.



Do not ask leading questions to fish for information that's not really relevant (such as When did you graduate? or Do you have children?).



If an applicant volunteers inappropriate information, try not to let the information influence you, and steer the conversation back to the job requirements.



How to Frame Your Questions

THE TAKEAWAY Keep it job-related to keep it legal.



Respecting People's Privacy



Before you ask a question, think about whether it's relevant.



Don't ask applicants for their social media passwords.



Obtain written permission from applicants before investigating their credit history in compliance with the Fair Credit Reporting Act, or before looking into whether they have a criminal conviction.



Respecting People's Privacy

THE TAKEAWAY Before you ask a question, ask yourself, "Is that really relevant?"



Providing Reasonable Accommodation



The law requires employers to provide reasonable accommodation to disabled applicants and employees to allow them to apply or do a job.



Accommodation that would be too expensive or difficult for the employer to provide is not considered "reasonable" and is therefore not legally required.



Employers must also reasonably accommodate applicants' and employees' religious requirements (for instance, changing an interview time so that it doesn't conflict with someone's religious obligations).



Providing Reasonable Accommodation

THE TAKEAWAY A small accommodation can have a big effect.

ILLEGAL TO SHOW TO AN AUDIENCE

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