

Sexual Harassment: Retaliation Not Allowed.

The US District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan ruled that a hospital LPN had grounds to sue her former employer, if she could prove that retaliation was the motive for her firing.

She complained to her supervisor and the local police over an incident with a male-nurse co-worker that could have been interpreted as harassment or as horseplay, but it resulted in him being fired, arrested and convicted for misdemeanor assault.

The LPN was then fired by the human resources director at the insistence of her nurse manager, her nurse manager being a close friend of the male nurse.

The important point made by the court's ruling is that retaliation over a complaint of sexual harassment is strictly forbidden, even if the retaliation does not come directly from the perpetrator, but instead is instigated by a third party. **Benson v. Carson City Hosp.**, 2007 WL 2951862 (E.D. Mich., October 9, 2007).