

How to be an Effective Workplace Investigator

A Virtual 1-Day Workplace Investigator Training

September 22 & 24, 2020 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm



COURSE OUTLINE

The following is a description of the 1-day online training:

Objectives

- to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the role of an internal investigator;
- to understand appropriate approaches to complaints, i.e. informal vs. formal processes;
- to develop and implement an investigation plan respecting a complaint;
- to examine the respective roles, rights, and obligations of the organization, the complainant(s), the respondent(s), the witnesses, and the union (if applicable);
- to develop interview skills, and the ability to determine relevant versus irrelevant information for an investigation;
- to acquire facilitation and mediation skills, including those necessary to address procedural or other objections by participants during an investigation;
- to develop analytical skills vis-à-vis information obtained during an investigation, and to identify sources and causes of conflict;
- to understand the legal analysis of information gathered through the investigation process, including relevant sections of applicable human rights legislation and company Policy; and
- to develop investigation report-writing skills (i.e. skills necessary in order to produce highquality written investigation reports).

Course Content

1. Review of the legal framework

(i.e. organizational policies, applicable human rights and workers compensation legislation):

- roles, responsibilities and obligations of the internal investigator as impartial, unbiased fact finder, of the organization as employer, the union, respondent(s), complainant(s), and witnesses;
- identifying the nature of the complaint and relevant sections of organizational policies and applicable human rights and workers compensation legislation; and
- review of the legal process, e.g. due process, confidentiality, credibility, findings of fact, privacy issues, etc.

2. Review of the investigation process

(i.e. establishing procedures for conducting investigations):

- objectives of the investigation and identifying the nature of the complaint;
- parties to the complaint including representation (e.g. legal counsel, support person);
- addressing accommodation and safety issues;
- notifying parties, witnesses and preparing and conducting interviews;
- issues of confidentiality;
- documenting statements and maintaining a file;
- exploring alternate resolution options;
- dealing with objections and soliciting cooperation from reluctant participants;
- "off the record" statements;
- assessing credibility and issuing decisions; and
- recording procedures of the investigator.

3. Drafting the report:

- writing the report, including treatment of documentary and oral evidence; and
- legal analysis of the complaint and making a decision.