

Employer-sponsored meetings

Employer-sponsored meetings or communication

An employer or the employer's agent, representative or designee must not discharge, discipline or otherwise penalize or threaten to discharge, discipline or otherwise penalize or take any adverse employment action against an employee:

1. because the employee declines to attend or participate in an employer-sponsored meeting or declines to receive or listen to communications from the employer or the agent, representative or designee of the employer if the meeting or communication is to communicate the opinion of the employer about religious or political matters;
2. as a means of inducing an employee to attend or participate in meetings or receive or listen to communications described in number 1 above; or
3. because the employee, or a person acting on behalf of the employee, makes a good-faith report, orally or in writing, of a violation or a suspected violation of this section.

Remedies

An aggrieved employee may bring a civil action to enforce this section of the law no later than 90 days after the date of the alleged violation. The court may award all appropriate relief, including injunctive relief, reinstatement, back pay and reestablishment of any employee benefits, reasonable attorney fees and costs.

Scope

This section does not:

1. prohibit communications of information the employer is required by law to communicate, but only to the extent of the lawful requirement;
2. limit the rights of an employer or its agent, representative or designee to conduct meetings involving religious or political matters as long as attendance is wholly voluntary or to engage in communications as long as receipt or listening is wholly voluntary; or
3. limit the rights of an employer or its agent, representative or designee from communicating to its employees any information, or requiring employee attendance at meetings and other events, that is necessary for the employees to perform their lawfully required job duties.

Summary

This law does not prohibit or regulate employer speech. The law regulates when an employer may discipline or fire an employee who declines to attend meetings about religious or political matters.

To review this law in full, including definitions, notice requirements and additional information about remedies, see Minnesota Statutes § 181.531. The Department of Labor and Industry does not enforce this law.

For more information about this law, contact an attorney.