Connecticut Extends Time to Comply with Mandatory Sexual Harassment Prevention Training

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Recognizing employers have challenges in ensuring employees complete Connecticut's new <u>mandatory sexual harassment training requirements</u> during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) has <u>authorized</u> employers to apply for a 90-day extension to complete training for employees who have been hired after October 1, 2019.

Employers may request an extension by emailing the CHRO at <u>CHRO.questions@ct.gov</u> and explaining how COVID-19 has affected the employer's ability to meet the training requirement. Examples of grounds for seeking the extension include "lack of access to technology including computer/the internet, illness of the employee or other unforeseeable circumstances." If the extension is granted, the employer will be required to train employees hired after October 1, 2019, within nine months (instead of six months) of the date of hire.

The CHRO's guidance does not contemplate modification of the existing deadline for training all employees hired before October 1, 2019. Training for those employees must be completed on or by October 1, 2020.

Jackson Lewis attorneys offer a <u>webinar-based program for non-supervisors</u> that satisfies the Connecticut training requirements. Additionally, programs can be designed for larger remote workforces to accommodate training needs during, and after, the pandemic.

Jackson Lewis attorneys will continue offering on-site training programs for nonsupervisors and supervisors as COVID-19 restrictions on operations are lifted.

Please contact a Jackson Lewis attorney with any questions.

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Sexual Harassment

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