

# Criminal VS Civil Proceedings



"Dax, you're the hottest intern I've ever met in the company. Promise me you'd take a half naked photo with me on your performance review day!"



"Avery!! I can't shake off all the disgusting vulgar things my supervisor has said to me! I am going to report this to the police. She will be arrested!"



"Sorry to hear Dax, but the police do not handle sexual harassment if it doesn't involve any criminal elements."



"Don't worry Dax! Sexual harassment without any criminal elements could be a civil offence. It can be brought to the EOC and the district court."



"You can lodge a written complaint with the EOC and consult a lawyer or institute legal proceedings at the District Court."

COMPASS | eoc anti-sexual harassment resource platform  
平機會反性騷擾資源平台

[www.eoc.org.hk/compass](http://www.eoc.org.hk/compass)



"EOC has an online resource platform called COMPASS. Why don't we check it out first?"

## **Civil Offence**

Sexual harassment is a civil offence rendered unlawful under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance. Examples of sexual harassment include unwelcome physical contact, sexual comments as well as unwelcome requests for sex. Certain sexual harassment acts, such as stalking or rape, may also bear criminal consequences at the same time.

If someone experiences sexual harassment, they can lodge a complaint to the Equal Opportunities Commission (“EOC”) or initiate civil proceedings at the district court. If the cases involved are criminal offences, they may report the incident to the police and lodge a complaint with the EOC concurrently.

For more information about sexual harassment, visit [COMPASS](#) – the EOC’s online resource platform or call the hotline at 2106 2222 to talk to our duty officer.

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