# **Techtonic Group**

**Employee Handbook** 

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# Section 1 – General

# 1.1. Purpose of this Handbook

This handbook has been prepared to inform employees of the policies and procedures of this company and to establish the company's expectations. It is not all-inclusive or intended to provide strict interpretations of our policies; rather, it offers an overview of the work environment. This handbook is not a contract, expressed or implied, guaranteeing employment for any length of time and is not intended to induce an employee to accept employment with the company.

The company reserves the right to unilaterally revise, suspend, revoke, terminate or change any of its policies, in whole or in part, whether described within this handbook or elsewhere, in its sole discretion. If any discrepancy between this handbook and current company policy arises, conform to current company policy. Every effort will be made to keep you informed of the company's policies, however we cannot guarantee that notice of revisions will be provided. Feel free to ask questions about any of the information within this handbook.

This handbook supersedes and replaces any and all personnel policies and manuals previously distributed, made available or applicable to employees.

# 1.2. At-Will Employment

Employment at this company is at-will. An at-will employment relationship can be terminated at any time, with or without reason or notice by either the employer or the employee. This at-will employment relationship exists regardless of any statements by office personnel to the contrary. Only Heather Terenzio is authorized to modify the at-will nature of the employment relationship, and the modification must be in writing.

# **Section 2 – Workplace Commitments**

# 2.1 Equal Opportunity Employment

This company is an equal opportunity employer and does not unlawfully discriminate against employees or applicants for employment on the basis of an individual's race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status, veteran status or any other status protected by applicable law. This policy applies to all terms, conditions

and privileges of employment, including recruitment, hiring, placement, compensation, promotion, discipline and termination.

Whenever possible, the company makes reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities to the extent required by law. Employees who would like to request a reasonable accommodation should contact their supervisor or Human Resources .

# 2.2 Non-Harassment Policy / Non-Discrimination Policy

This company prohibits discrimination or harassment based on race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status, veteran status or any other status protected by applicable law. Each individual has the right to work in a professional atmosphere that promotes equal employment opportunities and is free from discriminatory practices, including without limitation harassment. Consistent with its workplace policy of equal employment opportunity, the company prohibits and will not tolerate harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status, veteran status or any other status protected by applicable law. Violations of this policy will not be tolerated.

Discrimination includes, but is not limited to: making any employment decision or employment related action on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, age, sex, disability, national origin, marital or veteran status, or any other status protected by applicable law.

Harassment is generally defined as unwelcome verbal or non-verbal conduct, based upon a person's protected characteristic, that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward the person because of the characteristic, and which affects the person's employment opportunities or benefits, has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the person's work performance, or has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment. Harassing conduct includes, but is not limited to: epithets; slurs or negative stereotyping; threatening, intimidating or hostile acts; denigrating jokes and display or circulation in the workplace of written or graphic material that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual or group based on their protected characteristic.

Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal, visual or physical conduct of a sexual nature, when:

- 1. submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment;
- 2. submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or

3. such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

Examples of sexual harassment include: unwelcome or unsolicited sexual advances; displaying sexually suggestive material; unwelcome sexual flirtations, advances or propositions; suggestive comments; verbal abuse of a sexual nature; sexually oriented jokes; crude or vulgar language or gestures; graphic or verbal commentaries about an individual's body; display or distribution of obscene materials; physical contact such as patting, pinching or brushing against someone's body; or physical assault of a sexual nature.

### Reporting:

Any company employee who feels that he or she has been harassed or discriminated against, or has witnessed or become aware of discrimination or harassment in violation of these policies, should bring the matter to the immediate attention of his or her supervisor or Human Resources. The company will promptly investigate all allegations of discrimination and harassment, and take action as appropriate based on the outcome of the investigation. An investigation and its results will be treated as confidential to the extent feasible, and the company will take appropriate action based on the outcome of the investigation.

No employee will be retaliated against for making a complaint in good faith regarding a violation of these policies, or for participating in good faith in an investigation pursuant to these policies. If an employee feels he/she has been retaliated against, the employee should file a complaint using the procedures set forth above.

# 2.3 Drug-Free / Alcohol-Free Environment

Employees are prohibited from unlawfully consuming, distributing, possessing, selling, or using controlled substances while on duty. In addition, employees may not be under the influence of any controlled substance, such as drugs or alcohol, while at work, on company premises or engaged in company business. Prescription drugs or over-the-counter medications, taken as prescribed, are an exception to this policy.

Substance abuse, whether alcohol or drugs, leads to impaired work performance and/or inappropriate behavior which is strictly prohibited. If a manager believes drug or alcohol use impacts an employee's work performance or safety, they have the right request an alcohol and/or drug screening.

Anyone violating this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

# Section 3 – Company Policies and Procedures

#### 3.1 Professional Conduct

This company expects its employees to adhere to a standard of professional conduct and integrity. Integrity means being honest, acting ethically, with decency and fairness. This ensures that the work environment is safe, comfortable and productive. Employees should be respectful, courteous, and mindful of others' feelings and needs. General cooperation between coworkers and supervisors is expected. Individuals who act in an unprofessional manner may be subject to disciplinary action.

The company's reputation with its clients is built on trust. We strive in every interaction with them to increase that trust.

# 3.2 Background Checks and Drug Testing

Techtonic Group reserves the right to conduct pre-employment as well as random background checks and drug screenings as deemed necessary. Background check and drug screening information will be held in a file separate from employee's personnel files for a minimum of 5 years.

For the purpose of making decisions, report contents or portions of the content may be shared with appropriate individuals who have a legitimate business need to know as determined by Human Resources.

A conviction will not automatically preclude an individual from employment consideration. Techtonic Group will consider various factors in evaluating whether a conviction disclosed by an applicant warrants revoking a conditional offer of employment. Factors considered include, nature and frequency of offense(s), time since conviction, completion of sentence or any other remediation, and relevancy to the position.

Techtonic Group reserves the right to modify this policy at any time without notice.

#### 3.3 Dress Code

An employee's personal appearance and hygiene is a reflection on the company's character. Employees are expected to dress appropriately for their individual work responsibilities and position.

# 3.4 Payday

Paychecks are distributed via direct deposit every other Thursday after close of business. If the pay date lands on a holiday, paychecks will be distributed on the closest business prior to the holiday. Employees may request to be paid by check.

The paycheck will reflect work performed for the two calendar weeks prior to the payday period. Paychecks include salary or wages earned less any mandatory or elected deductions. Mandatory deductions include federal or state withholding tax, and other withholdings. Elected deductions are deductions authorized by the employee, and may include, for example, contributions to benefit plans. Employees may contact Heather Terenzio or Human Resources to obtain the necessary authorization forms for requesting additional deductions from their paychecks.

Notify a supervisor if the paycheck appears to be inaccurate or if it has been misplaced. The company reserves the right to charge a replacement fee for any lost paychecks. Advances on paychecks are not permitted. Information regarding final paychecks can be found under the termination section of this handbook.

Any change in name, address, telephone number, marital status or number of exemptions claimed by an employee must be reported to a Human Resources representative immediately.

# 3.5 Company Property

Company property, such as equipment, telephones, computers, and software, is not for private use. These devices are to be used strictly for company business, and are not permitted off grounds unless authorized. Company property must be used in the manner for which it was intended. Upon termination, employees are required to surrender any company property they possess.

Company computers, Internet and emails are a privileged resource, and must be used only to complete essential job-related functions. Employees are not permitted to download any "pirated" software, files or programs and must receive permission from a supervisor before installing any new software on a company computer. Files or programs stored on company computers may not be copied for personal use.

Company property, information or business opportunities may not be used for personal gain.

Violations of these policies could result in disciplinary action.

# 3.6 Internet, E-Mail, and Computer Use Policy

The use of Company electronic systems, including computers, fax machines, and all forms of Internet/intranet access, is for Company business and for authorized purposes only. Brief and occasional personal use of the electronic mail system or the Internet is acceptable as long as it is not excessive or inappropriate, occurs during personal time (lunch or other breaks), and does not result in expense or harm to the Company or otherwise violate this policy.

Use is defined as "excessive" if it interferes with normal job functions, responsiveness, or the ability to perform daily job activities. Electronic communication should not be used to solicit or sell products or services that are unrelated to the Company's business; distract, intimidate, or harass coworkers or third parties; or disrupt the workplace.

Use of Company computers, networks, and Internet access is a privilege granted by management and may be revoked at any time for inappropriate conduct carried out on such systems, including, but not limited to:

- Sending chain letters or participating in any way in the creation or transmission of unsolicited commercial e-mail ("spam") that is unrelated to legitimate Company purposes;
- Engaging in private or personal business activities, including excessive use of instant messaging and chat rooms (see below);
- Accessing networks, servers, drives, folders, or files to which the employee has not been granted access or authorization from someone with the right to make such a grant;
- Making unauthorized copies of Company files or other Company data;
- Destroying, deleting, erasing, or concealing Company files or other Company data, or otherwise making such files or data unavailable or inaccessible to the Company or to other authorized users of Company systems;
- Misrepresenting oneself or the Company;
- Violating the laws and regulations of the United States or any other nation or any state, city, province, or other local jurisdiction in any way;
- Engaging in unlawful or malicious activities;
- Deliberately propagating any virus, worm, Trojan horse, trap-door program code, or other code or file designed to disrupt, disable, impair, or otherwise harm either the Company's networks or systems or those of any other individual or entity;
- Using abusive, profane, threatening, racist, sexist, or otherwise objectionable language in either public or private messages;
- Sending, receiving, or accessing pornographic materials;
- Becoming involved in partisan politics;

- Causing congestion, disruption, disablement, alteration, or impairment of Company networks or systems;
- Maintaining, organizing, or participating in non-work-related Web logs ("blogs"), Web journals, "chat rooms", or private/personal/instant messaging;
- Failing to log off any secure, controlled-access computer or other form of electronic data system to which you are assigned, if you leave such computer or system unattended;
- Using recreational games; and/or
- Defeating or attempting to defeat security restrictions on company systems and applications.

Important exception: consistent with federal law, you may use the Company's electronic systems in order to discuss with other employees the terms and conditions of your and your coworkers' employment. However, any such discussions should take place during non-duty times and should not interfere with your or your coworkers' assigned duties. You must comply with a coworker's stated request to be left out of such discussions.

Using Company electronic systems to access, create, view, transmit, or receive racist, sexist, threatening, or otherwise objectionable or illegal material, defined as any visual, textual, or auditory entity, file, or data, is strictly prohibited. Such material violates the Company anti-harassment policies and subjects the responsible employee to disciplinary action. The Company's electronic mail system, Internet access, and computer systems must not be used to harm others or to violate the laws and regulations of the United States or any other nation or any state, city, province, or other local jurisdiction in any way. Use of company resources for illegal activity can lead to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal and criminal prosecution. The Company will comply with reasonable requests from law enforcement and regulatory agencies for logs, diaries, archives, or files on individual Internet activities, e-mail use, and/or computer use.

Unless specifically granted in this policy, any non-business use of the Company's electronic systems is expressly forbidden.

If you violate these policies, you could be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

### Confidentiality of Electronic Mail

As noted above, electronic mail is subject at all times to monitoring, and the release of specific information is subject to applicable state and federal laws and Company rules, policies, and procedures on confidentiality. Existing rules, policies, and procedures governing the sharing of confidential information also apply to the sharing of information via commercial software. Since there is the possibility that any message

could be shared with or without your permission or knowledge, the best rule to follow in the use of electronic mail for non-work-related information is to decide if you would post the information on the office bulletin board with your signature.

It is a violation of Company policy for any employee, including system administrators and supervisors, to access electronic mail and computer systems files to satisfy curiosity about the affairs of others, unless such access is directly related to that employee's job duties. Employees found to have engaged in such activities will be subject to disciplinary action.

# **Electronic Mail Tampering**

Electronic mail messages received should not be altered without the sender's permission; nor should electronic mail be altered and forwarded to another user and/or unauthorized attachments be placed on another's electronic mail message.

# <u>Policy Statement for Internet/Intranet Browser(s)</u>

The Internet is to be used to further the Company's mission, to provide effective service of the highest quality to the Company's customers and staff, and to support other direct job-related purposes. Supervisors should work with employees to determine the appropriateness of using the Internet for professional activities and career development. The various modes of Internet/Intranet access are Company resources and are provided as business tools to employees who may use them for research, professional development, and work-related communications. Limited personal use of Internet resources is a special exception to the general prohibition against the personal use of computer equipment and software.

Employees are individually liable for any and all damages incurred as a result of violating company security policy, copyright, and licensing agreements.

All Company policies and procedures apply to employees' conduct on the Internet, especially, but not exclusively, relating to: intellectual property, confidentiality, company information dissemination, standards of conduct, misuse of company resources, anti-harassment, and information and data security.

### 3.7 Privacy

Employees and employers share a relationship based on trust and mutual respect. However, the company retains the right to access all company property including computers, desks, file cabinets, storage facilities, and files and folders, electronic or otherwise, at any time. Employees should not entertain any expectations of privacy when on company grounds or while using company property.

All documents, files, voice-mails and electronic information, including e-mails and other communications, created, received or maintained on or through company property are the property of the company, not the employee. Therefore employees should have no expectation of privacy over those files or documents.

The Company prohibits the use in the workplace of any type of camera phone, cell phone camera, digital camera, video camera, or other form of recording device to record the image or other personal information of another person, if such use would constitute a violation of a civil or criminal statute that protects the person's right to be free from harassment or from invasion of the person's right to privacy. Employees may take pictures and make recordings during non-working time in a way that does not violate such civil or criminal statutes. The Company reserves the right to report any illegal use of such devices to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

#### 3.8 Personnel Files

The company maintains a personnel file on each employee. These files are kept confidentially. It is important that personnel files accurately reflect each employee's personal information. Employees are expected to inform the company of any change in name, address, home phone number, home address, marital status, number of dependents or emergency contact information.

# 3.9 Confidentiality

We receive a lot of press around our innovative approaches to training and our business culture. However, certain kinds of information provided to the press prematurely can hurt our products, eliminate our competitive advantage and prove costly in other ways.

Our clients and other parties with whom we do business entrust the company with important information relating to their businesses. It is our policy that all information considered confidential will not be disclosed to external parties or to employees without a "need to know." If an employee questions whether certain information is considered confidential, he/she should first check with his/her immediate supervisor.

This policy is intended to alert employees to the need for discretion at all times and is not intended to inhibit normal business communications.

#### 3.10 Conflicts of Interest

Employees must avoid any relationship or activity that might impair, or even appear to impair, their ability to make objective and fair decisions when performing their jobs. At times, an employee may be faced with situations in which business actions taken on behalf of Techtonic Group may conflict with the employee's own personal interests.

Conflicts of interest could arise in the following circumstances:

- Being employed by, or acting as a consultant to, a competitor or potential competitor, supplier or contractor, regardless of the nature of the employment, while employed with Techtonic Group.
- Hiring or supervising family members or closely related persons.
- Serving as a board member for an outside commercial company or organization.
- Owning or having a substantial interest in a competitor, supplier or contractor.
- Accepting gifts, discounts, favors or services from a customer/potential customer, competitor or supplier, unless equally available to all company employees.

Employees with a conflict-of-interest question should seek advice from management. Before engaging in any activity, transaction or relationship that might give rise to a conflict of interest, employees must seek review from their manager or the Human Resource department.

# 3.11 Outside Employment

Employees are permitted to engage in outside work or to hold other jobs, subject to certain restrictions as outlined below.

Activities and conduct away from the job must not compete with, conflict with or compromise the company interests or adversely affect job performance and the ability to fulfill all job responsibilities. Employees are prohibited from performing any services for customers on nonworking time that are normally performed by Techtonic Group. This prohibition also extends to the unauthorized use of any company tools or equipment and the unauthorized use or application of any confidential information. In addition, employees are not to solicit or conduct any outside business during paid working time.

Employees are cautioned to carefully consider the demands that additional work activity will create before accepting outside employment. Outside employment will not be considered an excuse for poor job performance, absenteeism, tardiness, leaving early, refusal to travel or refusal to work overtime or different hours. If Techtonic Group determines that an employee's outside work interferes with performance, the employee may be asked to terminate the outside employment.

Employees who have accepted outside employment may not use paid time off to work on the outside job. Fraudulent use of paid time off will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

# 3.12 Intellectual Property

Techtonic Group shall, to the fullest extent legally possible, exclusively own all inventions, products, designs, drawings, documents, documentation, improvements, works of authorship, processes, techniques, algorithms, technical and business plans, specifications, computer languages, computer programs, databases, user interfaces, and other materials that employees may make, conceive, develop or reduce to practice, alone or jointly with others, in connection with performing their job duties, whether or not they are eligible for patent, copyright, mask work, trade secret, trademark or other legal protection.

Developing or helping to develop code and projects that a) relate to Techtonic Group's existing or reasonably anticipated products and services, b) relate to your position at Techtonic Group, or c) are developed using Techtonic Group's corporate resources may create conflicts of interest and be subject to the provisions of Techtonic Group's Confidential Information and other employment agreements. If you have any questions about potential conflicts or intellectual property ownership involving an outside project or other intellectual property, consult your supervisor and/or human resources.

# **Section 4 - Employment Classification**

This company assigns positions, determines wages and compensates employees for overtime in accordance with state and local laws and the Fair Labor Standards Act.

### 4.1 Exempt Employees

Exempt employees are those that are excluded from the overtime pay requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Exempt employees are paid a salary and are expected to work beyond their normal work hours whenever necessary to accomplish the work of the company. Exempt employees are not eligible to receive overtime compensation. Employees should consult with an administrator if they have questions regarding their classification as an exempt employee.

# **4.2 Non-Exempt Employees**

Non-exempt employees are those eligible for overtime pay of 1.5 times the regular hourly rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 per work week. All overtime **must be approved in advance**. Employees should consult with an administrator if they have questions regarding their classification as a non-exempt employee.

# 4.3 Part Time, Full Time or Temporary Status

Part-time or full-time status depends on the number of hours per week an employee works. Regular employees who work fewer than [enter hours] receive part-time classification. Part-time employees are not eligible for employee benefits as described in this handbook. Regular employees who work at least 32 hours per week receive full-time classification.

From time to time the company may hire employees for specific projects or periods of time. Temporary employees may work either part-time or full-time, but generally are scheduled to terminate by a certain date. Temporary employees who remain on duty past the scheduled termination remain classified as temporary. Only Manuel Charca may change an employee's temporary status. Temporary employees are not eligible for employment benefits.

# Section 5 – Attendance Policies

#### 5.1 General Attendance

The company maintains normal business working hours. Hours may vary depending on work location and job responsibilities. Supervisors will provide employees with their work schedule. Should an employee have any questions regarding his/her work schedule, the employee should contact the supervisor.

The company does not tolerate absenteeism without excuse. Employees who will be late to or absent from work should notify a supervisor in advance, or as soon as practicable in the event of an emergency. Chronic absenteeism may result in disciplinary action.

Employees who need to leave early, for illness or otherwise, should inform a supervisor before departure. Unauthorized departures may result in disciplinary action.

#### 5.2 Tardiness

Employees are expected to arrive on time and ready for work. An employee who arrives after their scheduled arrival time is considered tardy. The company recognizes that situations arise which hinder punctuality; regardless, excessive tardiness is prohibited, and may be subject to disciplinary action and/or termination.

#### 5.3 Breaks

Non-exempt employees are entitled to two paid 15-minute breaks for every eight hours worked. Meal periods are unpaid and typically are for thirty minutes.

# Section 6 – Leave Policies

# **6.1 Flexible Time Off (FTO)**

The company provides, as a benefit, paid time off for its eligible exempt employees through our Flexible Time Off (FTO) policy. Our FTO policy allows employees to take as much leave as they need. Employees need time to rest and enjoy themselves outside work. Putting a cap on this important time doesn't help our effort to achieve high levels of employee satisfaction and productivity.

This policy is based on mutual trust between employer and employee. It gives employees opportunities to work or take time off as they see fit, as long as they keep fulfilling their duties.

FTO may be used for vacations or sick leave. For planned time off (e.g., vacations), submit requests for the time as far in advance as possible to a supervisor, who may approve or deny the request based on company resources or workload. The company is flexible in approving time off when doing so would not interfere with company operations. For unplanned FTO (e.g., a sick day), the company requests that employees provide notification to their supervisor as soon as practicable when taking time off. Abuse of the FTO policy may result in disciplinary action.

Exempt employees are eligible to receive FTO after thirty (30) calendar days of exempt service.

Employees don't accrue time-off so the company will not compensate unused leave. This policy doesn't interfere with legally established leaves like maternity and paternity leave.

# 6.2 Holidays

The company observes the following fixed holidays:

- New Year's Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day

- Thanksgiving
- Christmas Day

In addition, Martin Luther King Day and President's Day are observed on an alternating basis with Martin Luther King Day observed in odd years and President's Day in even years.

Holidays are observed on a paid basis for all eligible full-time exempt employees.

# **6.3 Jury Duty Time Off**

The company understands that occasionally employees are called to serve on a jury. Employees who are selected for jury duty must provide a copy of their jury summons to a supervisor. Time taken for jury duty is granted on an unpaid basis. Employees released from jury duty with 6 or more hours remaining in the workday, are expected to return to work.

# **6.4 Voting Time Off**

Employees are encouraged to participate in elections. The company grants incremental time off to cast a ballot in an election. Voting time off is granted on a paid basis. Should extenuating circumstances arise while voting, notify a supervisor as soon as possible.

# **6.5 Military Leave**

Employees called to active military duty, military reserve or National Guard service may be eligible to receive time off under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994. To receive time off, employees must provide notice and a copy of their report orders to an immediate supervisor. Military leave is granted on an unpaid basis. Upon return with an honorable discharge, an employee may be entitled to reinstatement and any applicable job benefits they would have received if present, to the extent provided by law.

### 6.6 Leave of Absence

Regular full-time employees may request an unpaid leave of absence for absences exceeding reasonable lengths. A request for a leave of absence must be submitted in writing in advance to the employee's immediate supervisor.

Leave of absences that are granted are unpaid, and will not be considered until an employee has exhausted all appropriate accrued leave balances. Continuation of employee benefits during a leave of absence will be addressed on an individual basis, as required by law.

# Section 7 – Work Performance

# 7.1 Expectations

The company expects every employee to act in a professional manner. Satisfactory performance of job duties and responsibilities is key to this expectation. Employees should attempt to achieve their job objectives, and act with diligence and consideration at all times. The company requests that employees not receive personal calls while on duty. If urgent, please keep personal calls to a minimum and conversations brief.

Poor job performance can result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

#### 7.2 Reviews

The company may periodically evaluate an employee's performance. The goal of a performance review is to identify areas where an employee excels and areas that need improvement. The company uses performance reviews as a tool to determine pay increases, promotions and/or disciplinary action.

All pay increases and promotions are based on merit, achievement and other factors which may include but are not limited to:

- Quality of work
- Attitude
- Knowledge of work
- Job skills
- Attendance and punctuality
- Teamwork and cooperation
- Compliance with company policy
- Past performance reviews
- Improvement
- Acceptance of responsibility and constructive feedback

Employees should note that a performance review does not guarantee a pay increase or promotion. Written performance evaluations may be made at any time to advise employees of unacceptable performance. Evaluations or any subsequent change in employment status, position or pay does not alter the employee's at will-relationship with the company.

Forward any questions about performance expectation or evaluation to the supervisor conducting the evaluation.

#### 7.3 Insubordination

Supervisors and employees should interact with mutual respect and common courtesy. Employees are expected to take instruction from supervisors or other persons of authority. Failure to comply with instructions or unreasonably delaying compliance is considered insubordination. Acts of insubordination are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

If an employee disagrees with a supervisor, the employee should first try to mediate the situation by explaining their position. If possible, a compromise might be met and accusations of insubordination avoided.

# **Section 8 – Discipline Policy**

# 8.1 Grounds for Disciplinary Action

The company reserves the right to discipline and/or terminate any employee who violates company policies, practices or rules of conduct. Poor performance and misconduct are also grounds for discipline or termination.

The following actions are unacceptable and considered grounds for disciplinary action. This list is not comprehensive; rather, it is meant merely as an example of the types of conduct that this company does not tolerate. These actions include, but are not limited to:

- Engaging in acts of discrimination or harassment in the workplace;
- Possessing, distributing or being under the influence of illicit controlled substances;
- Being under the influence of a controlled substance, legal or illegal, or alcohol at work, on company premises, or while engaged in company business;
- Unauthorized use of company property, equipment, devices or assets;
- Damage, destruction or theft of company property, equipment, devices or assets;
- Removing company property without prior authorization or disseminating company information without authorization;
- Falsification, misrepresentation or omission of information, documents or records;
- Lying;
- Insubordination or refusal to comply with directives;
- Failing to adequately perform job responsibilities;
- Excessive or unexcused absenteeism or tardiness;
- Disclosing confidential or proprietary company information without permission;

- Illegal or violent activity;
- Falsifying injury reports or reasons for leave;
- Possessing unauthorized weapons on premises;
- Disregard for safety and security procedures;
- Disparaging or disrespecting supervisors and/or co-workers; and
- Any other action or conduct that is inconsistent with company policies, procedures, standards or expectations.

This list exhibits the types of actions or events that are subject to disciplinary action. It is not intended to indicate every act that could lead to disciplinary action. The company reserves the right to determine the severity and extent of any disciplinary action based on the circumstances of each case.

#### 8.2 Procedures

Disciplinary action is any one of a number of options used to correct unacceptable behavior or actions. Discipline may take the form of oral warnings, written warnings, probation, suspension, demotion, discharge, removal or some other disciplinary action, in no particular order. This company does not follow a program of progressive discipline. The disciplinary course of action will be determined by the company at its sole discretion, as it deems appropriate.

#### 8.3 Termination

Employment with the company is on an at-will basis and may be terminated voluntarily or involuntarily at any time.

Upon termination, an employee is required:

- to continue to work until the last scheduled day of employment;
- to turn in all reports and paperwork required to be completed by the employee when due and no later than the last day of work;
- to return all files, documents, equipment, keys, access cards, software or other property belonging to the company that are in the employee's possession, custody or control, and turn in all passwords to his/her supervisor;
- to retain confidentiality of all company and client information

# Section 9 - Health and Safety

# 9.1 Workplace Safety

The company takes every reasonable precaution to ensure that employees have a safe working environment. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of each employee to help prevent accidents. Employees should maintain work areas in a safe and orderly manner, free from hazardous conditions.

Employees who observe an unsafe practice or condition should report it to a supervisor immediately. Employees are prohibited from making threats against anyone in connection with his/her work or engaging in violent activities while in the employ of the company.

In the event of an accident, employees must notify a supervisor immediately. Report every injury, regardless of how minor, to a supervisor immediately. Physical discomfort caused by repetitive tasks must also be reported. For more information about on the job injuries, refer to the worker's compensation section of this handbook.

Employees should recognize any potential fire hazards and be aware of fire escape routes and fire drills. Do not block fire exits, tamper with fire extinguishers or otherwise create fire hazards.

# 9.2 Workplace Security

Employees must be alert and aware of any potential dangers to themselves or their coworkers. Take every precaution to ensure that your surroundings are safe and secure. Guard personal belongings and company property. Visitors should be escorted at all times. Report any suspicious activity to a supervisor immediately.

# 9.3 Emergency Procedures

In the event of an emergency, dial 911 immediately. If you hear a fire alarm or other emergency alert system, proceed quickly and calmly to the nearest exit. Once the building has been evacuated, only a supervisor may authorize employees to reenter.

# **Section 10 - Employee Benefits**

This handbook contains descriptions of some of our current employee benefits. Many of the company's benefit plans are described in more formal plan documents available from [enter authorized person's name]. In the event of any inconsistencies between this handbook or any other oral or written description of benefits and a formal plan document, the formal plan document will govern.

#### 10.1 Health Insurance

For eligible exempt employees, the company currently does offers subsidized health insurance benefits through Connect for Health Colorado. As employees near eligibility, they will be given the opportunity to receive premium quotes for Kaiser Permanente medical insurance plans offered through Connect for Health Colorado. If they elect to obtain insurance through one of the offered plans, the company will contribute a \$150/month subsidy toward the cost of the premiums. Eligible employees are full-time exempt employees who have worked for company for three months. Part time and non-exempt employees are not eligible.

# 10.2 Workers' Compensation

As required by law, the company provides workers' compensation benefits for the protection of employees with work-related injuries or illnesses.

Workers' compensation insurance provides coverage to employees who receive job-related injuries or illnesses. If an employee is injured or becomes ill as a result of his/her job, it is the employee's responsibility to immediately notify a supervisor of their injury in order to receive benefits. Report every illness or injury to a supervisor, regardless of how minor it appears. The company will advise the employee of the procedure for submitting a workers' compensation claim. If necessary, injured employees will be referred to a medical care facility. Employees should retain all paperwork provided to them by the medical facility. Failure to report a work-related illness or injury promptly could result in denial of benefits. An employee's report should contain as many details as possible, including the date, time, description of the illness or injury, and the names of any witnesses.

A separate insurance company administers the worker's compensation insurance. Representatives of this company may contact injured employees regarding their benefits under the plan.

### 10.3 Retirement Plan

The company offers a retirement plan for eligible employees through the Vanguard Group. The plan is a Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees retirement account (SIMPLE IRA), which provides eligible employees a low cost, tax-favored means to accumulate savings for retirement. Employees will have the opportunity to contribute to the plan on a pre-tax basis up to IRS limits.

The company will contribute to each participating employee's SIMPLE IRA via a matching contribution that is equal to the employee's salary contributions up to 3% of

their pay. There is no vesting period on the company's contribution and it immediately accrues to each employee's account.

Exempt employees shall become eligible on the first pay period of a new calendar year following a year in which they earned \$5,000.00 or more from the company.

# Section 11 - Termination

# 11.1 Voluntary Termination

The company recognizes that personal situations may arise which requires a voluntary termination of employment. Should this occur, the company requests that the employee provide two weeks advance notice in writing. This request does not alter an employee's at-will relationship with the company.

All rights and privileges of employment with the company terminate upon the date of separation. As further discussed in Section 8.3, terminating employees are required to return all company property assigned to them. Failure to do so may result in the withholding of their final paycheck.

# 11.2 Final Paycheck

Employees who terminate employment with the company will receive their final pay at the next regularly scheduled pay date following termination or within 2 business days, whichever comes first.

# **Section 12 - Acknowledgement**

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Employee Handbook. I understand that I am responsible for reading the information contained in the Handbook.

I understand that the handbook is intended to provide me with a general overview of the company's policies and procedures. I acknowledge that nothing in this handbook is to be interpreted as a contract, expressed or implied, or an inducement for employment, nor does it guarantee my employment for any period of time.

I understand and accept that my employment with the company is at-will. I have the right to resign at any time with or without cause, just as the company may terminate my employment at any time with or without cause or notice, subject to applicable laws. I understand that nothing in the handbook or in any oral or written statement alters the at-will relationship.

I acknowledge that the company may revise, suspend, revoke, terminate, change or remove, prospectively or retroactively, any of the policies or procedures outlined in this handbook or elsewhere, in whole or in part, with or without notice at any time, at the company's sole discretion.

(Signature of Employee)	(Date)
(Signature of Company Representative)	(Date)