



**Figure 7.7** Referential integrity constraints displayed on the COMPANY relational database schema diagram.

**triggers** and **assertions** can be used. In SQL2, a CREATE ASSERTION statement is used for this purpose (see Chapters 8 and 23).

The types of constraints we discussed above may be termed as *state constraints*, because they define the constraints that a *valid state* of the database must satisfy. Another type of constraints, called *transition constraints*, can be defined to deal with state changes in the database.<sup>7</sup> An example of a transition constraint is: “the salary of an employee can only increase.” Such constraints are typically specified using active rules and triggers, as we shall discuss in Chapter 23.

7. State constraints are also called *static constraints*, and transition constraints are called *dynamic constraints*.