GENDER IDENTITY & THE LAW: PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS TRAINING FOR BUSINESSES

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016, THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS PROHIBITS DISCRIMINATION BASED ON GENDER IDENTITY IN PLACES OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION.

WHAT ARE PLACES OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION?

A place of public accommodation as defined in M.G.L. c. 272, § 92A includes any place open to and serving the public. Examples of public accommodations include but are not limited to hotels, stores, restaurants, theaters, sports stadiums, health and sports clubs, hospitals, transportation services, museums, libraries and parks.

WHAT DOES THE LAW REQUIRE?

The law provides that a place of public accommodation may not discriminate against an individual based on that individual's gender identity. Places of public accommodation may maintain sex segregated restrooms, locker rooms and changing rooms but may not refuse to allow an individual to use a sex segregated restroom that is consistent with their gender identity. The City of Cambridge encourages places of public accommodation to offer unisex or gender neutral restrooms whenever feasible and when otherwise permitted by law.

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