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## The "Reasonable Person" Standard

If an unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature causes someone to take offense, it will be judged whether or not it is sexual harassment as if interpreted by a ["reasonable person"](#).

This standard of a "reasonable person" has arisen from court attempts to interpret what behaviors should reasonably be considered sexual harassment. Since not everyone interprets behaviors in the same way, the courts find that, in order to be illegal, the conduct must be severely or pervasively offensive to a reasonable person in similar circumstances.

Under this standard, one-time unwelcome behavior will seldom qualify as sexual harassment **unless** it is sufficiently severe as judged by a reasonable person.

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