



Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund

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To: Members - Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund
(Municipalities and Utility Authorities)

From: David N. Grubb, Executive Director

Date: April 2018

Re: 2019-2020 Employment Practices Liability (EPL) Program

95% of MEL members have adopted the MEL's model employment practices risk control program and are eligible for lower deductibles. These programs must be updated every two years to remain eligible. **PLEASE VISIT THE MEL WEBPAGE – NJMEL.ORG – FOR A COPY OF THE REVISED MODEL.** Attached is a memorandum synopsis of the changes.

Members with updated loss control programs receive the standard EPL deductible of \$20,000 per claim plus a 20% co-pay capped at \$50,000 and may be eligible to buy down deductibles and co-insurance caps (See note below concerning members with adverse EPL claims experience).

To qualify for the lower deductibles, have your General Counsel or Employment Attorney complete the one page form checking the minimum requirements for updating the plan. It is not necessary to attach any further documentation. Mail the completed form to MEL Fund Office, 9 Campus Drive, Suite 216, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Members that did not qualify for the 2017-2018 incentive must adopt the EPL loss control plan and submit to the MEL for review. Have your General Counsel or Employment Attorney complete the two-page form checking the minimum requirements for the plan. The following must be attached to this form: (1) the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual, (2) the resolution adopting this manual, and (3) the Employee Handbook. Mail the completed form and attachments to the MEL Fund Office, 9 Campus Drive, Suite 216, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Members submitting the required form by October 1, 2018 will qualify or continue to qualify for the deductible incentives effective January 1, 2019. Members submitting this form after the deadline will become eligible for the deductible incentive upon approval of the application, but not retroactively.

Members without updated loss control programs will have a deductible of \$100,000 per claim plus a 20% co-pay with no cap. (See note below concerning members with adverse EPL claims experience).

Members with adverse EPL claims experience: Members with adverse loss experience will have a deductible of \$75,000 if they have an updated loss control plan and \$150,000 if they do not – in addition to the co-pay (as outlined above). In a few cases, the insurance carrier will establish higher deductibles for members due to exceptionally poor experience.

Public Official's Training Credit: The MEL is continuing the public officials training throughout the state for elected public officials and authority commissioners. Sessions have already been given at the League Convention and the AEA Convention in Atlantic City. The MEL will reduce each member's 2018 MEL premium by \$250 for each municipal elected official and authority commissioner who completes the course. The credit is also extended to the member's CEO (i.e. municipal manager/administrator or authority executive director). The maximum credit is capped at 5% of the member's MEL assessment. The MEL webpage will post a listing of sessions scheduled throughout the state. In addition, the course can be taken on-line through the MEL Safety Institute (direction attached).

Required Elements for the Incentive

- 1. Employment Attorney/Advisor:** An Employment Attorney or an Employment Advisor usually provides advice concerning personnel matters. However, the member may designate its General Counsel if experienced in employment matters.
- 2. Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual:** To facilitate this process, the MEL has developed a Model Personnel Policies and Procedure Manual that members are free to use at their discretion. Members can adopt the model, take sections from the model and place them in their existing personnel manual, or write their own policies that cover the subjects in the model.
- 3. Conscientious Employee Protection Act Notice:** This notice (in both English and Spanish) must be posted on the bulletin board and distributed to all personnel. The notice required by the NJ Department of Labor is included in the Model Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual. (copy can also be found on the MEL webpage – njmel.org)
- 4. Employee Handbook:** The handbook must be updated and distributed to all personnel. To facilitate this process, the MEL has developed a Model Employee handbook that members are free to use at their discretion. (which can be found on the MEL webpage – njmel.org)
- 5. Model Local Unit Civil Rights Resolution (municipalities only):** Adopt the model resolution. (which can be found on the MEL webpage – njmel.org)
- 6. Managerial and Supervisory Training:** Court decisions made personnel training for managerial and supervisory "mandatory". A signed acknowledgement that the manager or supervisor has completed training within the last 12 months must be placed in the personnel files. Training is also mandatory for the Municipal Judge, the heads of volunteer emergency service organizations such as Volunteer Fire Departments, EMS units, and the heads of organizations such as Library Boards and Planning Boards, etc., that are involved in personnel matters. The MEL has developed a Model that the local JIFs will conduct over the next 6 months. Your JIF will contact you with the details.

- 7. Police Chief, Captains and Lieutenants Training:** Because Police Departments are involved in a high percentage of employment related litigation, Police Chiefs and at least one other command officer must complete employment-practices training that takes into consideration the Attorney General's guidelines for police operations. A schedule of these seminars will be distributed by your JIF.
- 8. Training for All Other Personnel:** Court decisions also require employers to offer anti-harassment and related personnel training to all employees. This can be accomplished by requiring your employees to complete the 11 minutes on-line “We Must Respect Each Other in Local Government” found on www.njmel.org. Attached are the instructions to access this program.
- 9. MEL EPL Helpline:** The MEL includes a helpline to its members at no additional cost. Members are required to enroll (if you have not already done so) by calling 415-817-1611 or emailing bhansen@enquiron.com.

For assistance, please contact the MEL office or the office of your local JIF.

**Synopsis of Changes to
Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund
MODEL PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL**

The Municipal Excess Liability Fund Personnel Policy Committee (“Committee”) convened to consider changes to the Model Personnel Policies and Procedures (“Manual”) for the 2019 Policy Year. In order to be eligible to maintain current deductibles and co-pay, members must be in compliance with the Employment Practices Liability Program. Members must adopt the recommended changes by October 1, 2018.

This memorandum is intended to provide an overview of the changes to the Manual and accompanying documents. Members should amend their personnel manual accordingly.

Discussion of Adopted Changes:

Change 1: Protections Against Discrimination and Accommodation for Breastfeeding Employees (Located in Section One)

The Manual was modified to amend the Anti-Discrimination Policy and the Americans with Disabilities Act Policy/ New Jersey Pregnant Worker’s Fairness Act contained in Section One to include protections for breastfeeding to comply with recent changes in New Jersey law. The Manual now expressly protects individuals who are breastfeeding from discrimination and requires the Local Unit to provide to employees who are breastfeeding a reasonable break time each day and a suitable room or other location with privacy, other than a toilet stall, in close proximity to work area for the employee to express breast milk for the child.

Change 2: Modification to Communication Media Policy (Located in Section Two)

The Communication Media Policy was amended to be a “Communication Media/ Social Media Policy” with relevant changes contained within to be in compliance with recent cases.

Change 3: Section Five

There are some revisions to this Section in accordance with the Fair Credit Reporting Act. Change 4: Modification to Open Public Records Meetings Act Section (Located in Section Five)

Three changes have been made to the policy's Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) section. First, the policy has been amended to reflect the holding of Keane Federation of Teacher v. Ada Morell, 448 N.J. Super. 520 (App. Div. 2017). In Keane Federation, the Appellate Division held that Rice notices are not only required when there is *discussion* regarding the appointment, termination, terms and conditions of employment, performance evaluation or discipline of any current or prospective officer of employee in closed session but also when the local unit intends to *act* on these enumerated matters. Additional language has been added to clarify this expansion of when Rice notices are required to be issued. Second, the policy has been amended to clarify that only the municipal governing body or a "public body" of the local unit (as that term is defined by OPMA) are required to provide Rice notices. Third, changes have been made to update the criminal background checks in accordance with State legislative amendments.

Change 5: Overtime Compensation

Overtime Compensation Policy in Section 4 of the Manual was modified slightly to clarify the rate of overtime pay. This is not a substantive change.

Other Items of Note:

The Committee also discussed the following items, which did not necessitate any changes to the Manual but should be considered by the Members:

1. Attached please find a notice from the Department of Community Affairs regarding the certifications required by the P.L. 2017, c. 183. and referenced sample certifications.
2. In January, 2018 the DOT published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Federal Register that announced that proposes some amendments to the current DOT-regulated drug and alcohol testing requirements to broaden the testing of opiates to include synthetic opioids.
3. In January 2018, New Jersey enacted P.L. 2017, c.272, which requires the Civil Service Commission to develop a uniform domestic violence policy that all public employers, regardless if they are Civil Service, must adopt and distribute to their employees. To date, the Civil Service Commission has not adopted such a policy.

Please consider these changes and consult with your general counsel prior to adopting same.

**GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO P.L. 2017, C.183 OF COMPLIANCE
WITH THE UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION'S
"Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in
Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"**

**GROUP AFFIDAVIT FORM FOR MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES
NO PHOTO COPIES OF SIGNATURES**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COUNTY OF *(Insert County Name)*

We, members of the governing body of the *(Name of local unit)* being duly sworn according to law,
upon our oath depose and say:

1. We are duly elected (or appointed) members of the *(insert name of governing body)* of the *(name of local unit)* in the county of *(name of county)*;
2. Pursuant to P.L. 2017, c.183, we have familiarized ourselves with the contents of the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964," *as amended*, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.*, (April 25, 2012);
3. We are familiar with the local unit's hiring practices as they pertain to the consideration of an individual's criminal history;
4. We certify that the local unit's hiring practices comply with the above-referenced enforcement guidance.

(L.S.)	(L.S.)
(L.S.)	(L.S.)
(L.S.)	(L.S.)
(L.S.)	(L.S.)
(L.S.)	(L.S.)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
_____ day of _____
Notary Public of New Jersey

Clerk

The Municipal Clerk (or Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders as the case may be) shall set forth the reason for the absence of signature of any members of the governing body.

IMPORTANT: This certificate must be executed before a municipality or county can submit its approved budget to the Division of Local Government Services. The executed certificate and the adopted resolution must be kept on file and available for inspection.

**GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE
UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION'S
"Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment
Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"**

FORM OF RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183 requires the governing body of each municipality and county to certify that their local unit's hiring practices comply with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964," *as amended*, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.*, (April 25, 2012) before submitting its approved annual budget to the Division of Local Government Services in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have familiarized themselves with the contents of the above-referenced enforcement guidance and with their local unit's hiring practices as they pertain to the consideration of an individual's criminal history, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the *(name of governing body)* of the *(name of local unit)*, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5, as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183, by certifying that the local unit's hiring practices comply with the above-referenced enforcement guidance and hereby directs the Clerk to cause to be maintained and available for inspection a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to show evidence of said compliance.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF THE RESOLUTION PASSED AT THE MEETING HELD ON *(insert meeting date)*.

Clerk

Checklist for Members with Currently Approved Risk Control Plans

**2019-2020 MEL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES
RISK CONTROL UPDATE CHECKLIST**

Name of Municipality or Authority: _____

- Retain Employment Attorney/Advisor: (name)_____
- Update and distribute to managerial/supervisory employees the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual: (Not necessary to attach)
- Distribute a notice concerning the Conscientious Employee Protection Act to all personnel:
- Update and distribute the Employee Handbook: (Not necessary to attach)
- Adopt the model civil rights resolution (municipalities only).
- Train managerial and supervisory personnel:
- Have Police Chief, Deputy Chief, Public Safety Director, Captains & Lieutenants complete the special EPL training course:
- Offer Anti-Harassment training to all other personnel:
- Sign up with NJ MEL Helpline for Employment Practices.

I, _____, the (check __General Counsel or __Employment Attorney) of (member name)_____hereby certify that the member has verified to me that the above actions have been completed and that I have read the updated Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual and the updated Employee Handbook.

Signature: _____

Date: _____ Telephone: _____

To qualify for the Employment Practices Liability policy deductible, this checklist should be returned to the MEL Fund Office (9 Campus Drive, Suite 216, Parsippany, NJ 07054 as soon as possible. Members submitting this form by October 1, 2018 will qualify or continue to qualify for the deductible effective to January 1, 2019. Members submitting this form after the deadline will become eligible for the deductible incentive upon approval of the application, but not retroactively.

Checklist for Members without Currently Approved Risk Control Plans

INITIAL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LOSS RISK CONTROL INCENTIVE APPLICATION

Name of Municipality or Authority: _____

- Retain Employment Attorney/Advisor: (name)_____
- Adopt and distribute to managerial/supervisory employees the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual: (Attach Resolution and Manual)

Required Minimum Provisions:

- Anti-Discrimination Policy
- Americans with Disabilities Act Policy
- Contagious or Life Threatening Illnesses Policy
- Safety Policy
- Drugs and Alcohol Policy
- Workplace Violence Policy
- General Anti-Harassment Policy
- Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy
- Whistle Blower Policy
- Employee Complaint Policy
- Access to Personnel Files Policy
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Political Activity Policy
- Employee Evaluation Policy
- Employee Discipline Policy
- Workforce Reduction Policy
- Driver's License Policy
- Communication Media Policy/Social Media Policy
- Bulletin Board Policy
- Leave of Absence Policy
- Family and Medical Leave Act Policy
- Military Leave Policy
- Domestic Abuse Leave Policy
- Employment Procedure
- Open Public Meeting Act Procedure Concerning Personnel Matters
- Processing and Orientation of New Employees Procedure
- Initial Employment Period Procedure
- Employee Handbook Procedure
- Performance Evaluation Procedure
- Disciplinary Action Procedure
- Personnel File Procedure
- Employee Complaint Investigation Procedure
- Requests for Employment Verification and Reference Procedure
- Continuing Education Procedure

- Distribute a notice concerning the Conscientious Employee Protection Act to all personnel:
- Adopt and distribute the Employee Handbook: (Attach handbook)
- Adopt the model civil rights resolution (municipalities only).
- Train managerial and supervisory personnel:
- Have Police Chief, Deputy Chief, Public Safety Director, Captains & Lieutenants complete the special EPL training course:
- Offer Anti-Harassment training to all other personnel:
- Sign up with NJ MEL Helpline for Employment Practices.

I, _____, the (check __General Counsel or __Employment Attorney) of (member name)_____hereby certify that the member has verified to me that the above actions have been completed and that I have read the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual and the Employee Handbook.

Signature: _____

Date: _____ Telephone: _____

To qualify for the Employment Practices Liability policy deductible, this checklist should be returned to the MEL Fund Office (9 Campus Drive, Suite 216, Parsippany, NJ 07054 as soon as possible. Members submitting this form by October 1, 2018 will qualify or continue to qualify for the deductible effective to January 1, 2019. Members submitting this form after the deadline will become eligible for the deductible incentive upon approval of the application, but not retroactively.

Conscientious Employee Protection Act

“Whistleblower Act”

Employer retaliatory action; protected employee actions; employee responsibilities

1. New Jersey law prohibits an employer from taking any retaliatory action against an employee because the employee does any of the following:
 - a. Discloses, or threatens to disclose, to a supervisor or to a public body an activity, policy or practice of the employer or another employer, with whom there is a business relationship, that the employee reasonably believes is in violation of a law, or a rule or regulation issued under the law, or, in the case of an employee who is a licensed or certified health care professional, reasonably believes constitutes improper quality of patient care;
 - b. Provides information to, or testifies before, any public body conducting an investigation, hearing or inquiry into any violation of law, or a rule or regulation issued under the law by the employer or another employer, with whom there is a business relationship, or, in the case of an employee who is a licensed or certified health care professional, provides information to, or testifies before, any public body conducting an investigation, hearing or inquiry into quality of patient care; or
 - c. Provides information involving deception of, or misrepresentation to, any shareholder, investor, client, patient, customer, employee, former employee, retiree or pensioner of the employer or any governmental entity.
 - d. Provides information regarding any perceived criminal or fraudulent activity, policy or practice of deception or misrepresentation which the employee reasonably believes may defraud any shareholder, investor, client, patient, customer, employee, former employee, retiree or pensioner of the employer or any governmental entity.
 - e. Objects to, or refuses to participate in, any activity, policy or practice which the employee reasonably believes:
 - (1) is in violation of a law, or a rule or regulation issued under the law or, if the employee is a licensed or certified health care professional, constitutes improper quality of patient care;
 - (2) is fraudulent or criminal; or
 - (3) is incompatible with a clear mandate of public policy concerning the public health, safety or welfare or protection of the environment. N.J.S.A. 34:19-3.
2. The protection against retaliation, when a disclosure is made to a public body, does not apply unless the employee has brought the activity, policy or practice to the attention of a supervisor of the employee by written notice and given the employer a reasonable opportunity to correct the activity, policy or practice. However, disclosure is not required where the employee reasonably believes that the activity, policy or practice is known to one or more supervisors of the employer or where the employee fears physical harm as a result of the disclosure, provided that the situation is emergency in nature.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Your employer has designated the following contact person to receive written notifications, pursuant to paragraph 2 above (N.J.S.A. 34:19-4):

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

This notice must be conspicuously displayed.

Once each year, employers with 10 or more employees must distribute notice of this law to their employees. If you need this document in a language other than English or Spanish, please call (609) 292-7832.



AD-276 (8/11)

La Ley de protección al empleado consciente

“Ley de protección del denunciante”

Acciones de represalia del empleador; protección de las acciones del empleado

1. La ley de New Jersey prohíbe que los empleadores tomen medidas de represalia contra todo empleado que haga lo siguiente:
 - a. Divulgue o amenace con divulgar, ya sea a un supervisor o a una agencia pública toda actividad, directriz o norma del empleador o de cualquier otro empleador con el que exista una relación de negocios y que el empleado tiene motivos fundados para pensar que violan alguna ley, o en el caso de un trabajador licenciado o certificado de la salud y que tiene motivos fundados para pensar que se trata de una manera inadecuada de atención al paciente;
 - b. Facilite información o preste testimonio ante cualquier agencia pública que conduzca una investigación, audiencia o indagación sobre la violación de alguna ley, regla o reglamento que el empleador o algún otro empleador con el que exista una relación de negocios; o en el caso de un trabajador licenciado o certificado de la salud que facilite información o preste testimonio ante cualquier agencia pública que conduzca una investigación, audiencia o indagación sobre la calidad de la atención al paciente; o
 - c. Ofrece información concerniente al engaño o la tergiversación con accionistas, inversionistas, usuarios, pacientes, clientes, empleados, ex empleados, retirados o pensionados del empleador o de cualquier agencia gubernamental.
 - d. Ofrece información con respecto a toda actividad que se pueda percibir como delictiva o fraudulenta, toda directiva o práctica engañosa o de tergiversación que el empleado tenga motivos fundados para pensar que pudieran estafar a accionistas, inversionistas, usuarios, pacientes, clientes, empleados, ex empleados, retirados o pensionados del empleador o de cualquier agencia gubernamental.
 - e. Se opone o se niega a participar en alguna actividad, directriz o práctica que el empleado tiene motivos fundados para pensar que:
 - (1) viola alguna ley, o regla o reglamento que dicta la ley o en el caso de un empleado licenciado o certificado en cuidado de la salud que tiene motivos fundados para pensar que constituya atención inadecuada al paciente;
 - (2) es fraudulenta o delictiva; o
 - (3) es incompatible con algún mandato establecido por las directrices públicas relacionadas con la salud pública, la seguridad o el bienestar o la protección del medio ambiente. Artículo 34:19-3 de las Leyes comentadas de New Jersey de protección del empleado consciente (N.J.S.A., por sus siglas en inglés)
2. No se puede acoger a la protección contra la represalia, cuando se hace una divulgación a un organismo público, a no ser que el empleado le informe al empleador de tal actividad, política o norma a través de un aviso por escrito y le haya dado al empleador una oportunidad razonable para corregir tal actividad, política o norma. Sin embargo, no es necesaria la divulgación en los casos en que el empleado tenga indicios razonables para creer que un supervisor o más de un supervisor del empleador tienen conocimiento de tal actividad, política o norma o en los casos en los que el empleado teme que tal divulgación pueda traer como consecuencia daños físicos a su persona siempre y cuando la naturaleza de la situación sea la de una situación de emergencia.

Información del Contacto

Su empleador ha designado a la siguiente persona para recibir notificaciones de acuerdo al parágrafo 2, de la ley (N.J.S.A. 34:19-4):

Nombre: _____

Dirección: _____

Número de teléfono: _____

Este aviso se debe exponer a la vista de todos.

Anualmente, patronos con 10 o más empleados, deberán distribuir notificación de esta ley a todos sus empleados. Si necesita este documento en algún otro idioma que no sea Inglés o español, sírvase llamar al (609) 292-7832.



AD-276.1 (8/11)



2018 Elected Officials Online Training

While we recommend that public officials attend a training class, the MEL is also making available an on-line training program for Elected Officials and Authority Commissioners to earn their \$250 training credit. Please follow the steps below to access the program. To receive credit, the program must be completed by May 1, 2018.

1. Click the following link for the MEL Safety Institute's Learning Management System

www.firstnetcampus.com/meljif

2. If you have previously taken MSI classes, enter your username and password. If you do not know your username/password, check with your Training Administrator or call the MSI Helpline. If you are new, click 'New User Registration.' Complete the fields and you will receive an email with your username and password.
3. Click on the On-Line Training Courses, at bottom right.
4. Click the 'Elected Officials - Land Use Liability' course.
5. Click 'Enroll'.
6. Click the 'My Training' tab on the top blue tool bar.
7. Click the program name to launch the course.
8. Upon completion of the course and questions you will navigate to the 'Student Center' tab to print your Certificate of Completion. Learning transcripts are automatically updated in the MEL Safety Institute's Learning Management System.

Questions? Contact the MSI Help Line (866) 661-5120

The MEL Safety Institute can also be accessed anytime by going to www.njmel.org.

You must complete the entire program and the affidavit at the end of the program to receive credit. If you need additional assistance please call the MSI help line at (866) 661-5120 during business hours.



We Must Respect Each Other In Local Government Online Training Instructions

This course discusses the right of each employee to a workplace free of harassment and each employee's duty to respect the rights of all other employees.

To access the online course:

1. Click the following link for the MEL Safety Institutes Learning Management System

www.firstnetcampus.com/meljif

2. If you have previously taken MSI classes, enter your username and password. If you are new, click 'New User Registration.' Complete the fields and you will receive an email with your username and password.
3. Click on the On-Line Training Courses, at bottom right.
4. Click the "We Must Respect Each Other in Local Government".
5. Click 'Enroll'.
6. Click the 'My Training' tab on the top blue tool bar.
7. Click the program name to launch the course.
8. Upon completion of the course and questions navigate to the 'Student Center' tab to print your Certificate of Completion. Transcripts are automatically updated in the MEL Safety Institute's Learning Management System.

Questions? Contact the MSI Help Line (866) 661-5120

The MEL Safety Institute can also be accessed anytime by going to www.njmel.org.

Employee Safety and Anti Harassment Seminar Leader's Guide

Who should conduct the seminar? The leader should be the Municipal Manager/Administrator, the Authority Executive Director, the Human Resources Manager, the local unit's General Counsel or Employment Attorney/Advisor.

Are all employees required to attend? The court requires employers to "make training available" to all employees. However, the employer has the option of making the training mandatory. Attendance must be documented in each employee's personnel file.

How long is the seminar? The formal presentation is about 20 minutes, mostly consisting of the video. However, the question and answer period at the end could easily add another half hour or more to the seminar.

Is this seminar also available on line? Yes. See njmel.org for directions on how to take this course directly from the MEL's web based learning management system.

Section One: Introduction

Each of you has a right to safe workplace free discrimination, violence, harassment and conflicts of interest. The (local unit name) has a "no tolerance policy" towards workplace wrongdoing and expects all employees to conduct themselves consistent with this policy. Today, we will discuss what this means.

The program begins with a twelve-minute video that explains your rights and obligations under the "no tolerance" policy. The video states clearly what types of conduct are unacceptable when interacting with fellow employees. As many of the unacceptable behaviors are also against the law, compliance is essential both for your own protection and to ensure that others not subjected to conduct that might create a hostile work environment.

At the end of the video, there will be time to ask questions.

Section Two: Play video, "We Must Respect Each Other in Local Government."

Section Three: Question and Answers:

Before opening for questions, distribute copies of the CEPA notice and discuss the procedure to report wrongdoing. This is also an opportunity to distribute the revised employee handbook or discuss any particular personnel matter that you deem appropriate.

At the beginning of the Q&A period, tell the employees questions that pertain to a particular individual are not appropriate for the general session and should be asked after the meeting. Further, if anyone feels uncomfortable asking a question during the meeting, you will be available to talk to them afterwards. Also state that if the question involves a legal issue, it will be forwarded to the General Council or the Employment Attorney/Advisor. Make detailed notes of these questions in the attached Question Log and tell the employees that the attorney/advisor will quickly get back to them.

Questions Log

Employee Name	Details of Question(s) Raised