

- Georgia’s Equal Employment for Persons with Disabilities Code of 1981, found O.C.G.A. § 34-6A-1, et seq., which mimics the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, in that it prohibits discrimination because of an individual's disability with respect to wages, rates of pay, hours, or other terms and conditions of employment because of such person's disability unless such disability restricts that individual's ability to engage in the particular job or occupation for which he or she is eligible. The Code has no administrative prerequisites to filing suit; and
- Atlanta Ordinance No. 2000-79, § 1, which applies to employers located within the City of Atlanta with ten or more employees. The Ordinance prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, creed, religion, sex, domestic relationship status, parental status, familial status, sexual orientation, national origin, gender identity, age, or disability.

### **Definitions**

**Complaint Coordinator:** A person or persons designated by GEMA/HS to ensure that received complaints are acted upon in a timely manner.

**Discrimination:** The treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction in favor of or against, a person based on the person’s legally recognized protected category (including race, color, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, English proficiency, or disability) to which that person belongs rather on individual merit. There are various federal and state laws and rules that further describe the specific types of discrimination.

**Retaliation:** The act of harassing, threatening, demoting, firing, or otherwise negatively targeting a complainant as a direct result of the complainant opposing unlawful discrimination.

**Subrecipient:** A non-Federal entity that receives a grant sub-award from GEMA/HS to carry out part of a Federal program. A subrecipient does not include an individual that is a beneficiary of such a program.

### **Complaint Procedures**

An employee, client, customer, program participant, or consumer of GEMA/HS or of a GEMA/HS subrecipient may submit a complaint of discrimination concerning the implementation or administration of any program, activity, or service receiving federal financial assistance from the DOJ or DHS on behalf of him/herself or on behalf of another. Any such individual has the right, and is encouraged, to file a written complaint with the Office for Civil Rights in the DOJ (OCR), the DHS’s Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL), or GEMA/HS.

1. If the relevant federal grant is funded by the DOJ, the complaint may be sent directly to the OCR using the *Complaint Verification Form* and *Identity Release Statement*, which are available at: <https://www.ojp.gov/program/civil-rights/filing-civil-rights-complaint>.