

# The Difference Between Tattling & Reporting: **It could save a life!**

Let's face it: Someone acting inappropriately in the workplace can make us nervous. Especially if that someone is yelling, threatening or striking out in a physical or emotionally distraught manner.

Confronting an offender is scary, and going to a superior may make you feel like a snitch. **But doing nothing could cost a coworker their life.** Here's the difference between tattling & reporting:

**Tattling:** rattling out a co-worker so you look better, snitching on someone about every little thing - 5 minutes late for work, took an extra break, being lazy at work, etc.

**Reporting:** expressing your fear, concern or discomfort about a coworker's behaviors, emotions or actions that are inappropriate, harmful, or threatening either psychologically or physically.

**Ask yourself: "What could happen if I do nothing?"** By not reporting it, you're enabling the person to continue their pattern of behavior. Many cases of injury or death have been aided by such a "code of silence" mentality. Your silence could get someone killed! **Do what's right by exposing what's wrong!**

**When you should report:** Anytime that you see a co-worker engaged in behavior that is unsafe, harmful, threatening, or creating a hostile work environment.

**How should you report:** Notify your supervisor, health & safety team member, or HR department. Stick to the facts of the situation. It's okay to share your feelings as to how this situation makes you feel, but put aside your personal opinions & judgements of the co-workers personality and focus your concerns on their actions. Share the impact that this behavior is having on your co-workers and the organization.

**Still NOT Sure? Examine Your Intentions!** Are you trying to keep co-workers safe, or are you getting back at someone? Are you trying to teach someone a lesson or are you genuinely concerned? If you are honestly concerned, nervous or frightened by a co-worker's behavior, then you are reporting for the right reasons. You should feel guilt-free in reporting if you've focused on facts, not your personal opinion.

When you report workplace violence, you're protecting yourself, your co-workers **your customers and your company** from a potentially hostile work environment and from what could be a life-threatening situation. **BE A ROLE MODEL!** And report instead of tattle! **Be the difference!**

About Carol



Carol Cambridge (formerly Fredrickson), Founder & CEO of *The Stay Safe Project*, is a global authority on workplace violence, workplace conflict and personal safety. Her message of empowerment has reached audiences around the world in the form of keynotes, workshops, virtual training and consulting.



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