

## Sample First Rehearsal Language

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The following is adapted from the First Rehearsal Script created by Lifeline Theatre In Chicago; one of the contributors to the Chicago Theatre Standards. The following is an extension of the “First Day Implementation Notes” described earlier in this document. Pilot theatres have found these support documents particularly helpful. The following is not prescriptive or definitive, but is offered as a sample to be used or adapted. This script does not include the election of the NED, although that is often done at the first rehearsal.

**Staff Member:** \_\_\_\_\_ Theatre has adopted The Chicago Theatre Standards, available at [notinourhouse.org](http://notinourhouse.org).

The aim of the CTS is to adopt procedures to prevent and respond to unsafe and/or abusive events, environments or individuals. If there is a fight scene in the show, there will also be a qualified choreographer. If there's a sex scene in the show, parameters will be agreed upon and safeguards will be put in place to maintain them.

An important component of the CTS is the Concern Resolution Path. This is a three-tiered list of people who you can contact if you feel uncomfortable or have any concerns throughout this production process. You have received a printed copy of the Concern Resolution Path with contact information for everyone on the path. This document will also be posted in the rehearsal and dressing rooms for your reference. I'd like to ask everyone on the path to introduce themselves.

The Chicago Theatre Standards contains a number of pledges that we, the producing theater, make to you. Among these is a welcoming environment free of harassment and discrimination.

Since a positive environment is a team effort, we'd like to take this opportunity to read the definitions of harassment aloud to make sure we have a shared understanding. **NAME (show director)** if you could begin, and then everyone else just jump in for a section when you like, no particular order, changing speakers with color changes.

**Company members read aloud:** Harassment includes, but is not limited to:

1. Inappropriate or insulting remarks, gestures, jokes, innuendoes or taunting about a person's racial or ethnic background, color, place of birth, citizenship, ancestry, creed, or disability,
2. Unwanted questions or comments about an Artist's private life,
3. Posting or display of materials, articles, or graffiti, etc. which may cause humiliation, offence or embarrassment on prohibited grounds.
4. Sexual Harassment:
  - a. One or a series of comments or conduct of a gender-related or sexual nature that is known or ought reasonably be known to be unwelcome/unwanted, offensive, intimidating, hostile or inappropriate. Artists have the right to be free from:
    - i. Sexual solicitation or advance made by a person in a position to confer, grant or deny a benefit or advancement,
    - ii. Reprisal or threat of reprisal for the rejection of a sexual solicitation or advance where the reprisal is made by a person in a position to grant, confer, or deny a benefit or

advancement.

b. Sexual harassment includes but is not limited to:

- i. Unwelcome remarks, jokes, innuendoes or taunting about a person's body, attire, gender, or sexual orientation,
- ii. Unwanted touching or any unwanted or inappropriate physical contact such as touching, kissing, patting, hugging or pinching,
- iii. Unwelcome enquiries or comments about a person's sex life or sexual preference,
- iv. Leering, whistling, or other suggestive or insulting sounds,
- v. Inappropriate comments about clothing, physical characteristics or activities,
- vi. Posting or display of materials, articles, or graffiti, etc. which is sexually oriented,
- vii. Requests or demands for sexual favors which include, or strongly imply, promises of rewards for complying (e.g., job advancement opportunities, and/or threats of punishment for refusal (e.g., denial of job advancement or opportunities).

All or part of the above grounds may create a negative environment for individuals or groups. This may have the effect of "poisoning" the work environment. It should be noted that a person does not have to be a direct target to be adversely affected by a negative environment. It includes conduct or comment that creates and maintains an offensive, hostile, or intimidating climate.

**Staff Member:** Thank you. Negative comments or actions often occur accidentally – but even when that is the case -- if we don't address them in the moment it can start a slide into a less professional room. (please see following page for Oops and Ouch approach)