

## Careless comments have consequences in the workplace



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Joking with your coworkers around the watercooler is one thing, but keep in mind what you think of as just fun, off-hand comments could lead to a lawsuit for your company.

In this clip from a Business Hour on why employers get sued (and how to avoid it), attorney [Ryan Neumeyer](#) is discussing how to avoid claims of age discrimination when it comes to succession planning. Ryan provides a real world example of what happened when a manager in a case candidly referred to an employee as an old fart.

The lesson to be learned from Ryan's example? Even if you have a good relationship with your coworkers, you must watch out for stray comments that could later be interpreted as discriminatory. As attorney [Miriam Rosen](#) states at the end of the above clip, it's only a joke until someone gets fired.

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