

[Select location](#)[Sign In](#) | [Register](#)[News](#) [A&E](#) [Biz](#) [Tech](#) [Money](#) [Cars](#) [Style](#) [Health](#) [Travel](#) [Nightlife](#) [Pride](#) [Calendar](#)[Entertainment](#) » [Culture](#)

## Boulder Lesbian Quits Hospital Job Over Gay Pride Screen Saver

by Winnie McCroy  
EDGE Editor  
Friday Jan 6, 2017

[PRINT](#) [EMAIL](#) [COMMENTS \(0\)](#)

A former registered dietitian at Boulder Community Hospital in Colorado, said she was told to remove a rainbow flag screen saver from her computer or she would be fired. So she quit instead.

Denver7 ABC News [reports](#) that Michelle Hurn, a lesbian, was using the screen saver after the presidential election to show her support for the LGBTQ community.

"I'm going to put the flag up. It's a symbol to be of equality and, you know, of pride -- especially for people who are

marginalized," said Hurn.

But a complaint from a co-worker prompted a call from her boss insisting that the image be deleted or she would be fired, Hurn said.

"I'm certainly not looking for special treatment or preferential treatment, but to say that a symbol of equality is offensive -- I have a real problem with that and I just don't feel good working for an organization that's going to stand behind that," said Hurn.

Hurn told Denver 7 she spoke several times with hospital administrators, who each time refused to support her position. In a recent statement, Rob Vissers, president and CEO of Boulder Community Health, backpedaled on allegations of not being supportive of the LGBT community, saying, "BCH unequivocally supports the right of all employees to be part of a welcoming and safe workplace. We are proud to be a community owned and operated health system that reflects the deeply held values of tolerance and inclusiveness that define Boulder."

The statement goes on to say that Hurn was using a shared workplace computer, and said that the "employee who resigned was never threatened with termination by any member of the management team or Human Resources Department at BCH," but was instead offered the chance to have a mediation with her coworker.

Vissers' statement said that the gay pride flag was never on any list of offensive images banned at BCH, and that in fact there "is not and never has been such a list," saying only that "communications and images in shared workspaces be neutral. The purpose of this practice is to maintain a workplace that is focused on patient care. In this specific situation, the employee resigned rather than accept our content neutrality practice."

Nevertheless, [Towleroad](#) reports that hospital employees have launched a petition to have the hospital remove the rainbow flag from its "offensive images" list.

BCH countered that they were "proud of and deeply value the diversity and inclusiveness of our workforce, but this incident has made us realize we still have much work to do in order to provide the accepting

environment our employees and patients deserve and expect."

But Hurn maintains that she was threatened with termination, telling Denver7 that "I was very surprised that HR, my boss, the director of our department, they all told me they like me, they think I'm a good dietitian, they think I do great work, but if I'm going to put the symbol back up, then they're going to start the discipline process and that I was going to be fired."

Winnie McCroy is the Women on the EDGE Editor, HIV/Health Editor, and Assistant Entertainment Editor for EDGE Media Network, handling all women's news, HIV health stories and theater reviews throughout the U.S. She has contributed to other publications, including The Village Voice, Gay City News, Chelsea Now and The Advocate, and lives in Brooklyn, New York.

## Comments

[Add New Comment](#)

## Comments on Facebook

0 Comments

Sort by [Oldest](#)



Add a comment...

[Facebook Comments Plugin](#)

## Related Stories



### [Wells Fargo Banker Says She Was Fired for Flagging Fraud](#)

FINANCE | Oct 8

Wells Fargo's CEO has claimed he first heard about the creation of fake accounts in 2013, but only on "CBS This Morning," one whistleblower says she alerted the company years earlier.

### [Music Director at Catholic Church Fired for Gay Marriage](#)

WORKPLACE | Sep 27

A music director at a Catholic church in Rhode Island says he has been fired because he married a man.

### [Lawyer for Gay Police Chief Says She Was Fired Illegally](#)

WORKPLACE | Sep 13

The lawyer for a fired gay police chief says she should get her job back because the South Carolina town of Latta didn't follow the law.

## Win Free Stuff!





**FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS** on Blu-ray!



**PopUps: Penélope Cruz to Play Donatella Versace in 'American Crime Story'**

After rumors that Lady

Gaga would play Donatella Versace for the third season of "American Crime Story" were shot down, Ryan Murphy has cast finally cast the role: Penélope Cruz will play the Italian designer in the upcoming FX anthology series.

[More»](#)

## INSIDE EDGE



**In World First, Iceland to Require Firms to Prove Equal Pay**



**Calvin Klein Apparently Has a New Boy Toy - And He's a Twin!**



**Watch: Gay Couple Featured in Beautiful New Volvo Ad**



**Avalanche Strikes French Alps Resort of Tignes**



**New Works By Women Writers Showcased at Good to Go Songwriter's Showcase**



**March 10 is Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day**

## Network Partners

- Atlanta, GA
- Atlantic City, NJ
- Austin, TX
- Baltimore, MD
- Boston, MA
- Buffalo, NY
- Charlotte, NC
- Chicago, IL
- Cleveland, OH
- Columbus, OH
- Dallas, TX
- Denver, CO
- Detroit, MI
- Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Los Angeles, CA
- Miami, FL
- Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN
- Nashville, TN
- New Orleans, LA
- New York, NY
- Orlando, FL
- Palm Springs, CA
- Philadelphia, PA
- Phoenix, AZ
- Pittsburgh, PA
- Portland, OR
- Providence, RI
- Provincetown, MA

- Bay Area Reporter
- Bay Windows
- Bear World Magazine
- Damron LGBT Travel
- HotSpots! Magazine
- QNotes
- Rage Monthly
- South Florida Gay News
- Uomo Moderno

## Things to do

- Get Newsletters
- Learn about EDGE
- Work here
- Visit our Press Room
- Advertise
- Write Feedback
- Read Privacy Statement
- Read Terms of Use
- Contact Us

- Fire Island, NY
- Indianapolis, IN
- Key West, FL
- Las Vegas, NV
- San Diego, CA
- San Francisco, CA
- Seattle, WA
- Washington, DC

## Email Updates

Enter your email address below to receive daily email updates including news, giveaways and more.



Copyright ©  
2003-2017  
EDGE Publications,  
Inc. / All Rights  
Reserved

Homotech, YouShoot, EDGE Media Network, Pride Labs and QueeryMe are registered trademarks of EDGE Publications Inc.

98.14.235.74