

Simply irresistible? You could be sacked

- 1 IF you think an employee is "irresistibly" attractive, it's OK to sack them — at least in the minds of seven male US judges.
- 2 An all-male Iowa Supreme Court has ruled that a dentist acted legally when he fired an assistant. The court ruled 7 — 0 that bosses can fire employees they see as an "irresistible" attraction. Such firings are not unlawful discrimination under the Iowa Civil Rights Act because they are motivated by emotions, not gender, Justice Edward Mansfield wrote.
- 3 A lawyer for dentist James Knight said the decision was a victory for "family values" because Dr Knight fired Melissa Nelson to save his marriage. But Ms Nelson's lawyer said the court failed to recognise the discrimination women see routinely in the workplace. "These judges say they don't think men can be held responsible for their behaviour and that women are the ones who have to monitor and control their bosses' sexual desires."
- 4 Ms Nelson worked for Dr Knight for 10 years and he considered her a stellar worker. But in her final months there he complained she distracted him. Dr Knight and Ms Nelson — both married with children — exchanged text messages, mostly about personal matters such as their families. Dr Knight's wife found out about the messages and demanded Ms Nelson be fired. Ms Nelson filed a lawsuit alleging gender discrimination, arguing she would not have been terminated if she were male.

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Tekst 2 Simply irresistible? You could be sacked

- 1p 2 “a dentist acted legally when he fired an assistant” (alinea 2)
Wie heeft ervoor gezorgd dat de assistente werd ontslagen?
- 1p 3 What is the main purpose of paragraph 3?
A to demonstrate that the ruling was legitimate
B to explain why the ruling attracted media attention
C to outline the arguments that supported the ruling
D to report how both parties reacted to the ruling
E to show that the ruling triggered strong reactions
- 1p 4 In welke alinea laat de schrijver van dit artikel zijn/haar **eigen** mening over deze zaak doorschemeren?
Noteer het nummer van deze alinea.

Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.