

## MY LEGAL RIGHTS

**Q. My former employer is angry at me for leaving. When a prospective employer called them, my former supervisor FALSELY told them that, while on company business in Las Vegas, I was arrested for drunk driving. I lost the new job because of that statement. What are my legal rights?**

A. You may have the right to bring several claims against your former company and supervisor. Under a general claim of defamation, a person can be liable for either slanderous (written) or libelous (spoken) statements. To win your case against your former supervisor or the company, you must prove (1) your prospective employer heard the statement, (2) that the statement was false, (3) the statement was made to harm you and (4) you were actually harmed because of the statement. If the statement is true you may not have a claim. These types of claims are difficult to win. It is important to speak with a qualified personal injury attorney to understand your rights in complicated cases like libel or slander.

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