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Break executive's 'palm tickle' grip

Jay Remer, Financial Post
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Dear Etiquette Guy:

Not long ago, a new male executive commenced at work. When he shakes the hands of female employees, he has the unsavory practice of including a "palm tickle" with his handshakes. To receive a handshake that includes your palm being tickled means that the person longs to be, ahem, "intimate" with you. What's the best way to deal with this? To dodge his handshakes is not an option. Hopefully, he'll read your response in the paper and get the message.

Grossed Out

Dear G. O.:

My initial reaction is to suggest wearing gloves and practicing your left hook. This rude action goes well beyond what is acceptable behaviour in the workplace.

The next time he does this, I advise that you squeeze his hand quite firmly, look him squarely in the eye and state: "Don't do that again!" Most likely you are not the first person to be subjected to this childish gesture. You should, however, be the last. - Jay Remer is the Etiquette Guy. He is trained and certified by the Protocol School of Washington as a consultant for corporate etiquette and international protocol. He lives in St. Andrews, N. B. E-mail your etiquette questions to jay@etiquetteguy.com and visit his Web site at www.etiquetteguy.com.

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