UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Office of Indian Education Programs
Human Resources Office
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
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OIEP Human Resources Bulletin: 03-03

To: Office of Indian Education Program Employees

From: Human Resources Officer Joann F. Deere

Subject: Policy Statement Regarding Procedures for Referral on Fraud, Waste, Abuse and Inefficiency

References:

355, DM1

Coverage:

All Office of Indian Education Programs (OIEP) employees.

Description:

The Office of Indian Education Programs (OIEP) transmits the attached OIG Policy for Referrals from Departmental Offices and Bureaus, dated July 3, 2000. A copy of this Bulletin and the attached memorandum should be posted on your organization's bulletin board.

Scope of Authority of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG):

A primary mission of the OIG staff is the prevention and detection of fraud, waste, and inefficiency that results in the loss of departmental funds. The authority of the OIG is broadly defined to cover "any information, allegation or complaint that gives the appearance of fraud, waste and abuse or inefficiency in Departmental programs and operations" and "serious matters which could embarrass the Department or threaten the integrity of DOI programs."

Referrals of Matters Reported to the OIG:

The OIG cannot effectively investigate every matter that may fall within this broad scope of their jurisdictional definition. Accordingly, the attached guidance distinguishes matters that must be referred to the OIG from matters that either fall within the jurisdiction of other authorities or matters that are more efficiently addressed and resolved by management through administrative actions.

Reporting Fraud, Waste, Abuse and Mismanagement:

Employees may contact the OIG by using their 24-hour toll-free telephone number at **1-800-424-5081.** You may be asked to leave a message if you are calling after normal working hours. Written documents should be mailed directly to the United States Department of the Interior, Office of the Inspector General, 1849 C Street, NW, MS-5341, Washington D.C. 20240. You may also contact their website at http://www.doi.gov. Information supplied to the OIG should be as specific as possible to aid in solving the reported problem.

Integrity Matters:

Allegations of "serious matters" which could embarrass the Department or threaten the integrity of DOI programs will be referred to the Assistant Inspector General for Program Integrity at (202) 219-0725. Such "serious matters" that will be referred to Program Integrity include:

1. Allegations involving misconduct by supervisory personnel – regardless of grade.

2. Allegations against employees at the GS-15 level and above.

3. Allegations of felony criminal misconduct or domestic abuse by DOI Law Enforcement Officers.

Investigative Matters:

Matters that give the appearance of fraud, waste and abuse or inefficiency in Departmental programs and operations will be referred to the Assistant Inspector General for Investigations at (202) 208-5313, in Washington DC, or in one of the following three Regional Offices:

Western Region	(Sacramento, CA)	(916) 978-5630
Central Region	(Lakewood, CO)	(303) 236-8296
Eastern Region	(Arlington, VA)	(703) 235-9221

Referrals to other Legal Authorities:

Certain matters fall outside the investigative jurisdiction of the OIG and will be referred directly to the entity having jurisdiction. Such matters include:

1. Hatch Act violations, specific prohibited personnel practices, such as: nepotism (contained at 5 U.S.C. 2302(b) and Whistleblower disclosures/protection are investigated and prosecuted by the Office of Special Counsel (OSC).

2. Complaints of discrimination are investigated by the Departmental Equal Employment Opportunity Office and adjudicated by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

3. Grievance and appeals of adverse personnel actions are adjudicated by the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB).

   It should be noted that only a small number of OIEP employees (including Title 5 employees) have appeal rights to MSPB. However, grievances and appeals of adverse personnel actions that are within the jurisdiction of MSPB will not be investigated by the OIG even if the employee has appeal rights to MSPB. Instead, the matter will be referred directly to MSPB.

4. Health and safety violations at the workplace are investigated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Impact on Existing Procedures:

The OIG is not a substitute for existing procedures that should be used to resolve employee grievances, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) complaints, labor disputes, Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) matters, or other personal concerns.

Confidentiality of Reports:

Information received by the OIG is considered confidential and employees may report matters anonymously if they choose.

Contact Information:

If you have questions concerning the above policy, please contact the Office of the Inspector General or the Human Resources Office at (505) 258-6359.

Attachment