



Office of Inspector General

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TO: All OIG employees

FROM: Inspector General James W. Hagen JAMES HAGEN

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HAGEN
Date: 2021.08.24 14:49:32
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SUBJ: Annual whistleblower protection and prohibited practices notice

DATE: August 24, 2021

Earlier this year, you received a notice from the Executive Director regarding whistleblower protections and prohibited personnel practices. I would like to remind you again to ensure your awareness and understanding of what personnel practices are prohibited and what whistleblower protections are available to federal employees.

In keeping with the Whistleblower Protection Act's notification requirements, this memorandum includes links to information about the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC), which is an independent agency that protects federal employees from prohibited personnel practices, including whistleblower retaliation and unlawful hiring practices. OSC also provides an independent, secure channel for disclosing and resolving wrongdoing in federal agencies.

The Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989, the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012, and the Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017 provide the right for all covered federal employees to make whistleblower disclosures and ensure that employees are protected from whistleblower retaliation. Whistleblowing is defined as the disclosure of information that an employee reasonably believes evidences a violation of law, rule or regulation; gross mismanagement; gross waste of funds; an abuse of authority; a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety; or censorship related to scientific research and analysis. Employees may make disclosures to anyone, including, for example, management officials, the Inspector General of an agency, and/or OSC.

Please review this OSC link for more information: [Additional Resources](#).

Federal employees have the right to be free from prohibited personnel practices, including retaliation for whistleblowing. The OIG is committed to making sure that all employees are aware of their rights as well as the safeguards that are in place to protect them.

cc: Larry Fazio, OED
Frank Kressman, OGC