



U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Inspector General

WHISTLEBLOWER INFORMATION

Am I a whistleblower?

If you are a Federal employee, former Federal employee, applicant for federal employment or an employee of a contractor, subcontractor, or grantee submitting information to the Small Business Administration (SBA), Office of Inspector General (OIG) regarding fraud waste or abuse in the SBA's programs or operations, you are probably a whistleblower.

Please be aware that specific criteria apply to whistleblower protections afforded by law. For example, disclosures by current and former federal employees, applicants for federal employment, and employees of a federal contractor, subcontractor, or grantee have special meaning and protections.

What should be reported?

Any information involving:

- a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety;
- a violation of any law, rule, or regulation;
- gross mismanagement;
- a gross waste of funds;
- an abuse of authority; or
- censorship related to scientific research if censorship meets one of the above listed categories.

Where can I report such wrongdoing?

If the wrongdoing involves the SBA you should report the information to the OIG Hotline.

Should I fear retaliation?

Federal law prohibits governmental personnel from retaliating against an employee who acts as a whistleblower by reporting suspected waste, fraud or abuse to OIG. However, in order for whistleblower protections to apply, the disclosure must have

What can I do if I believe retaliation has occurred?

Federal employees can contact OIG or the Office of Special Counsel (OSC). OSC is an independent Federal agency. The complaint can be filed by contacting the OSC Complaints Examining Unit (1-800-872-9855) or by going to OSC's website, www.osc.gov. If OSC opens an investigation and finds sufficient evidence to prove a violation, OSC can seek corrective action, disciplinary action, or both. Contractors, subcontractors, or grantees should contact the OIG Hotline.

Where can I learn more?

The OIG Whistleblower Coordinator educates SBA employees about prohibitions on retaliation for whistleblowing, as well as employees' rights and remedies if anyone retaliates against them for making a protected disclosure. Employees can contact the OIG Coordinator at OIGombudsman@sba.gov or call the Hotline at **800.767.0385**. Employees should know that the OIG Coordinator will not act as a legal representative, agent, or advocate of the employee or former employee.

SUBMIT A COMPLAINT

MAIL:

Office of Inspector General
ATTN: Hotline
409 3rd Street, SW, Suite 7150
Washington, DC 20416

ONLINE:

WWW.SBA.GOV/OIG/HOTLINE

PHONE:

800.767.0385