

WHISTLEBLOWER INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYEES OF GSA CONTRACTORS, SUBCONTRACTORS OR PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACTORS

Whistleblowers perform an important service to the General Services Administration and the public when they come forward with what they reasonably believe to be evidence of wrongdoing. They should never be subject to reprisal for doing so.

Federal law protects federal employees against reprisal for whistleblowing. In addition, under Title 41, United States Code, Section 4712, it is illegal for an employee of a Federal contractor, subcontractor or personal services contractor to be discharged, demoted or otherwise discriminated against for making a protected whistleblower disclosure. Also, under Presidential Policy Directive (PPD-19), an action affecting access to classified information cannot be taken in reprisal for protected whistleblowing.

The General Services Administration Office of Inspector General (GSA OIG) has jurisdiction to investigate allegations of reprisal for whistleblowing by employees of GSA contractors, subcontractors or personal services contractors. Information on how to report suspected reprisal to the OIG is available at: <https://www.gsaig.gov/content/whistleblower-protection>.

WHAT IS A WHISTLEBLOWER

A whistleblower is an employee of a Federal contractor, subcontractor or personal services contractor who discloses information that the individual reasonably believes is evidence of:

- Gross mismanagement of a Federal contractor or grant;
- A gross waste of Federal funds;
- An abuse of authority relating to a Federal contract or grant;
- A substantial or specific danger to public health or safety; or
- A violation of law, rule or regulation related to a Federal contract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract) or grant.

TO WHOM MUST THE DISCLOSURE BE MADE TO BE PROTECTED?

To be protected under Section 4712, a disclosure must be made to one of the following:

- A Member of Congress, or a representative of a committee of Congress;
- The OIG;
- The Government Accountability Office (GAO);
- A Federal employee responsible for contract or grant oversight or management at the relevant agency;
- An authorized official of the Department of Justice or other law enforcement agency;
- A court or grand jury; or
- A management official or other employee of the contractor, subcontractor who has the responsibility to investigate, discover or address misconduct.

Disclosures involving classified information should be made in accordance with otherwise applicable laws, and individuals should consult with the OIG to ensure that such disclosures to it are made appropriately.

WHAT CAN I DO IF I BELIEVE RETALIATION HAS OCCURRED?

Employees of contractors, subcontractors or personal services contractors may file a complaint under Section 4712 with the OIG, which will investigate the matter unless the OIG determines that the complaint is frivolous, fails to allege a violation of the prohibition against whistleblower reprisal or has been addressed in another proceeding. Upon completion of its investigation, the OIG will submit a report of its findings to the person, the contractor concerned, and the head of the agency.

If you are an employee of GSA, or of a GSA contractor, subcontractor or personal services contractor and you suspect that a personnel action or an action affecting access to classified information has been taken against you in reprisal for making a disclosure of wrongdoing, you may report it to the OIG.

Nothing in a non-disclosure agreement should be interpreted as limiting your ability to provide information to the OIG.

For further information about whistleblower rights and protections, please see the Whistleblower Protection page on the OIG's website at: <https://www.gsaig.gov/content/whistleblower-protection>.

If you wish to make a whistleblower disclosure, you may contact the U.S. Office of Special Counsel website: <https://osc.gov/Services/Pages/DU-FileClaim.aspx>.

HOW CAN I REPORT WRONGDOING TO GSA OIG?

If you know about waste, fraud, abuse, misconduct, or whistleblower reprisal relating to a GSA employee, program, or contract, you may report it to the OIG through the following:

Report Fraud Hotline Form: <https://www.gsaig.gov/content/report-fraud>

Report Whistleblower Retaliation: <https://osc.gov/pages/file-complaint.aspx>

Contact the Whistleblower Protection Coordinator: whistleblower@gsaig.gov or 202-273-7330

GSA IG Fraud Hotline: 202-501-1780 | 1-800-424-5210 E-mail: fraudnet@gsaig.gov

Mailing Address:

**GSA/OIG Investigations
ATTENTION: Fraud Hotline
1800 F Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20405**

