



Illinois Ethics Matters

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Honesty, Integrity, Service

A newsletter from the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies
of the Illinois Governor

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Recent News

In addition to the matter discussed below, the Executive Ethics Commission released *In re: Wilson, Morgan, and De la Cruz (Case #12-01390)*, and *In re: DHS Caseworker (Case #13-01684)*, both of which are now available on the OEIG website.

DHS Employee Suspended Following OEIG Investigation



An OEIG investigation into inappropriate conduct at a Department of Human Services (DHS) facility resulted in a suspension.

The OEIG received allegations that a DHS employee had taken inappropriate pictures of

herself at the workplace.

The OEIG's investigation confirmed that the employee had taken such photographs using her personal cellular phone. DHS policy provides that DHS employees "shall not demonstrate inappropriate behavior or discourteous treatment of the public, co-workers, customers, or applicants." DHS policy also prohibits employees from using personal cellular phones in the workplace.

The employee acknowledged to OEIG investigators that use of personal cellular phones in the office is prohibited under DHS policy. Nonetheless, she admitted to using her personal cellular phone to take photographs of herself, some of which were inappropriate, in the workplace.

The OEIG found that the employee violated DHS policy by taking inappropriate photos on her personal cellular phone in the workplace.

The OEIG recommended that DHS take appropriate disciplinary action. DHS agreed with the OEIG's recommendation and imposed a 20-day suspension, which she has served. The report, **Case # 15-00855**, is available on the OEIG website.

OEIG Issues Guide Regarding Political Activity

As a service to Illinois state employees in this election year, the OEIG has issued a Guide for state employees' political activity.

The Ethics Act prohibits certain political activity by state employees. The Guide explains what is and is not permissible as the 2016 election gets into full swing:

- State employees are generally not restricted from engaging in political activities such as voting, attending town halls and debates, or participating in political campaigns; but
- Certain political activities, include soliciting, accepting, or making campaign contributions; distributing campaign materials; and volunteering with a candidate or party, are prohibited during compensated time (unless on vacation, personal, or comp time). Also be mindful that conducting these activities at any time by misappropriating State resources, including state email accounts, is also prohibited.

State employees are encouraged to bring any questions to their agency's ethics officer. A copy of the Guide is available on the OEIG website.