



# Illinois Ethics Matters

August 18, 2015

[www.inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov](http://www.inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov)

*Honesty, Integrity, Service*

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

## Office of Executive Inspector General

**Margaret A. Hickey**  
Acting Executive  
Inspector General

**Daniel Hurtado**  
Chief of Staff &  
General Counsel

**Fallon Opperman**  
Deputy Inspector  
General & Chief of  
Chicago Division

**Thomas Klein**  
Deputy Inspector  
General & Chief of  
Springfield Division

**Brandon Myers**  
Deputy Inspector  
General & Chief of  
Regional Transit Board  
Division

**Claudia P. Ortega**  
Director of Finance and  
Administration

**Chicago Office:**  
69 W. Washington St.  
Suite 3400  
Chicago, IL 60602  
(312) 814-5600

**Springfield Office:**  
607 E. Adams St.  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 558-5600

**Hotline:**  
Phone: (866) 814-1113

**TTY:**  
(888) 261-2734

## Focus on: Appropriate Usage of State Email Accounts



Recent news coverage of email usage by public figures has sparked interest in the appropriate uses of State email.

The OEIG suggests State employees apply the following considerations to the use of State email. In general, the OEIG recommends that State employees use State email only for State purposes.

- State email, State computers, and State computer networks are State property, and their use is governed by the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act and other State laws and agency rules, such as the Office of the Governor Employee Handbook.
- At no time is it appropriate to use State email, State computers, or State networks for prohibited political purposes.
- It may violate agency policies to use State email for any non-State purposes, or non-State email for state business. Check your agency's rules.

In recent years, OEIG investigations have resulted in disciplinary action against State employees who used State email for:

- Prohibited political activity (e.g., [Case #14-00544](#))
- Secondary employment (e.g., [Case #11-00323](#))
- Criminal acts (e.g., [Case #08-00687](#))
- Sexual harassment (e.g., [Case #11-00693](#))

Statutes and agency policies apply to State email (e.g., "@Illinois.gov" or "@Illinois.edu" addresses) and can also apply to private email addresses if accessed using a State computer or Internet connection, or even using a private device and Internet connection like a mobile phone if the employee is doing so on compensated time.

Penalties for inappropriate email usage involving violations of the Ethics Act or other laws can range from a reprimand to termination, and may include monetary fines. State employees have also faced criminal charges as a result of OEIG investigations into the use of State email for illegal purposes

## Former DHS Employee Arrested

Debra Moore, a former Department of Human Services (DHS) Case-worker, was arrested July 15, 2015, according to press releases from the Office of the Illinois Attorney General and the Illinois State Police.

Ms. Moore, who resigned from DHS and now resides in Texas, was charged with Theft of Government Monies, a Class X Felony, and Official Misconduct, a Class 3 Felony.

Ms. Moore is alleged to have abused her position at DHS by adding unauthorized benefits to accounts of family and friends, sometimes in exchange for cash. Over the last decade, she allegedly facilitated the delivery of more than \$300,000 in unauthorized benefits.

The Attorney General and Illinois State Police both acknowledged the work of the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor in developing the charges against Ms. Moore.

**Calendar of Events:** August 17-20, 2015: Investigator Weaver will attend Certified Fraud Examiner Review. September 14, 2015: Several OEIG staff will attend the 2015 Fall Ethics Officer Conference

Please contact David Morrison at [david.morrison@illinois.gov](mailto:david.morrison@illinois.gov) or the sender of this newsletter if you wish to unsubscribe.