



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

- The OEIG is pleased to announce that **Mitchell Witkov** began as a Hiring & Employment Monitoring Attorney, and **Brad Rady** began as an IT Desktop Support Technician, both in Chicago.
- REMINDER: If you are the ethics officer of an agency under the Governor and have not updated your agency's entry in the Revolving Door Tracking system with new hires, departures or promotions, please do so as soon as possible.

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OEIG Finds Excess Billing at DHS



An OEIG investigation into the submission of false timesheets to the Department of Human Services (DHS) found that some Personal Assistants, whom DHS pays to care for customers at home, over-billed their hours. *In re: Anderson et al., (Case #12-00194).*

The DHS Division of Rehabilitation's Home Services Program is designed to prevent the unnecessary institutionalization of customers who can be maintained at home. The program pays Personal Assistants, who submit bimonthly calendars listing hours worked. The OEIG identified Personal Assistants who failed to report the actual hours they worked:

- One Personal Assistant reported hours as a Personal Assistant while also working the same hours at DHS or while on medical leave from DHS, resulting in over \$6,000 in overpayments.
- Another's timesheets revealed that she worked the same hours for a county sheriff's department that she claimed as a Personal Assistant, resulting in over \$4,000 in overpayments.
- Another two reported that performing Personal Assistant services for multiple DHS customers in different locations at the same time, resulting in over \$1,600 in combined overpayments.

The OEIG recommended DHS recover any potential overpayments and bar the Personal Assistants from the Home Services Program. DHS barred the Personal Assistants and reported recovering over \$4,000.

OEIG Finds Abuses of CTA Tax-Exempt Letter

An OEIG investigation found that a CTA employee used the CTA's tax-exempt letter to purchase over \$21,000 in personal items, avoiding sales taxes. *In re: McClendon (Case #15-02091).*

The employee confirmed that she signed a wholesale club form that her purchases were on behalf of the CTA, and that she was not in fact authorized to make purchases that were reimbursed by the CTA.

In response, the CTA suspended the employee for 30 days without pay and directed her to pay the Department of Revenue (DOR) the sales taxes due. She paid DOR over \$1,200. The CTA also adopted Administrative Policy #1506 to improve the internal controls of its tax-exempt letter.