



# 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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## Department on Aging Employee Improperly Bills Fiscal Agent



The OEIG concluded that an employee of the Department on Aging (“IDoA”) sought and obtained reimbursements from both Aging and an Aging fiscal agent for expenses that had already been

paid by the other entity.

Catherine Houghtby was an IDoA employee responsible for planning various senior citizen advocacy programs. The Illinois Council of Case Coordination Units (ICCCU) is a company that acted as IDoA’s fiscal agent. The investigation found that Ms. Houghtby twice improperly sought and obtained reimbursements from ICCCU for expenses that had been directly paid by IDoA. She also sought and obtained reimbursements from both IDoA and ICCCU for an identical service. The improper reimbursements totaled over \$2,000.

Catherine Houghtby retired from State service in December 2015. The OEIG recommended that IDoA place a copy of the report in her file and she not be rehired by the State. IDoA agreed with the recommendations.

The OEIG referred the matter to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) for prosecution. The OAG filed a criminal complaint and obtained a guilty plea to a misdemeanor count of theft. Ms. Houghtby was sentenced to one year of conditional discharge and ordered to pay restitution.

A copy of the report, [In re: Houghtby \(Case #16-00277\)](#) is available on the OEIG website.

## New Ethics Laws

Last year there were two amendments to the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act.

- Public Act 100-43 (Senate Bill 8), enacted in August, requires ethics training overseen by the OEIG to include several procurement communications rules. Public Act 100-43 also amends the Illinois Procurement Code to make several changes. For example, the law requires anticompetitive practices and collusion to be reported to the appropriate Inspector General, the Attorney General, and the chief procurement officer. The law also adds all “State employees” to the list of individuals who are subject to immediate dismissal if they willfully use or allow the use of information to compromise the fairness or integrity of the procurement process.
  - Public Act 100-554 (Senate Bill 402), enacted in November, prohibits anyone covered by the Ethics Act from sexually harassing any person, regardless of any employment relationship or lack thereof. Public Act 100-554 also requires sexual harassment training for new and continuing employees.
- Check with your legal team about other new statutes that may affect your agency.