



# WHISTLEBLOWER PROGRAM

## YOU CAN REPORT IMPROPER ACTS

We are your confidential avenue for reporting improper activities by state agencies or employees. It is **your responsibility**, as a government employee, to report any type of fraud, waste, or abuse, which ultimately protects scarce state resources. It is also **your right** to be free from retaliation for doing so.

In 2021 alone, we received **1,281 allegations** of wrongdoing, most of which concerned waste of state funds, misuse of state resources, improper contracting, and time and attendance abuse. Whistleblower complaints through our office have triggered investigations revealing **\$584 million in improper spending**, such as:

- A state agency unlawfully gave nearly \$1.3 million in gifts to two other state agencies including \$80,000 in artificial turf, \$66,000 in digital cameras, and \$150,000 in furniture. The agency also made 10 unlawful appointments by circumventing civil service laws.
- An employee's inexcusable neglect of duty and dishonesty caused a state agency to pay \$305,000 in additional wages to some employees.
- A superintendent misused a state-owned vehicle for his commute and personal errands costing the State nearly \$23,000.

## WE INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS

We report substantiated allegations to the head of the employing agency, the Legislature, and the Governor. In addition, we report some of the substantiated allegations to the general public, keeping confidential the identities of the state employees involved. You can view these reports on our website at:

[www.auditor.ca.gov/reports/investigative](http://www.auditor.ca.gov/reports/investigative)

We refer substantiated violations of law to law enforcement agencies, as appropriate.

## HOW TO REPORT

You have three ways to report information to us confidentially:

**Call the Whistleblower Hotline at:**  
800-952-5665  
916-322-2603 (Fax)

(Note: The hotline is staffed Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. However, callers may leave a brief recorded message during other hours.)

**Mail information to:**  
Investigations  
California State Auditor  
P.O. Box 1019  
Sacramento, CA 95812

**Submit online to:**  
<https://www.auditor.ca.gov/hotline>



To view an informational webinar hosted by CalHR, visit:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9WFYLhJDOss>



# FRAUD WASTE ABUSE

## BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!

## HELPFUL TIPS WHEN FILING A COMPLAINT

### ▶ WHAT TO REPORT

Pursuant to Government Code section 8547.2, subdivision (c), improper acts **by a state agency or employee** that should be reported to the State Auditor include:

- Violations of state or federal law, including theft, fraud, or conflict of interest;
- Noncompliance with an executive order, Rule of Court, the *State Administrative Manual*, or the *State Contracting Manual*;
- Misuse or waste of state resources, including property or employee time;
- Gross misconduct, incompetence, or inefficiency.

### ▶ WHAT WE CAN'T INVESTIGATE

We do not have the authority to investigate either violations of internal department policies or procedures or local government agencies and employees.

### ▶ WE PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY

If you report an impropriety, you are protected by the Whistleblower Protection Act, which:

- Requires us to protect your identity (except from law enforcement);
- Prohibits retaliation, intimidation, threats, or coercion by state employees that could interfere with your right to disclose improper governmental activities.

If you believe that you have been retaliated against for disclosing an improper governmental activity, you should report this immediately to one of the following agencies:

#### State and Court Employees

State Personnel Board  
801 Capitol Mall, MS53  
Sacramento, CA 95814

#### California State University Employees

Vice Chancellor of Human Resources  
310 Golden Shore, Room 115  
Long Beach, CA 90802

*Or contact the appointed campus administrator.*

#### University of California (UC) Employees

Contact the locally designated official for the UC facility at which you are employed. Visit [www.ucop.edu](http://www.ucop.edu) for more information.

#### Prepare Before Filing

Gather your thoughts before filing a complaint and prepare yourself to answer the following questions:

- What is the improper activity?
- Who acted improperly?
- Where does that person work?
- How often and for how long has the activity been occurring?
- Why has it been allowed to continue?

#### Support What You Allege

We are unable to investigate allegations without support for your complaint. Therefore, please remember to include the following:

- Description of the evidence that proves what you are alleging.
- Names and telephone numbers of knowledgeable witnesses.
- Copies of any documents you have in your possession that support your allegation. (Please do not submit original documents, as they cannot be returned.)

#### Consider Providing Contact Information

You have a right to file a complaint **anonymously**. However, we may not be able to investigate your complaint if we cannot talk to you to confirm the information you are providing or obtain additional information. Please remember that if you identify yourself to us, **we cannot reveal your identity to anyone else without your permission**, except to appropriate law enforcement personnel who are conducting a criminal investigation.

#### Keep Your Complaint Confidential

We investigate complaints as confidentially as possible to protect both your identity as a whistleblower and our ability to gather information without interference. To protect the confidentiality of your complaint, **we encourage you not to tell anyone that you filed a complaint with us.**

