



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's Hiring & Employment Monitoring (HEM) Division released its quarterly report for the second quarter of calendar year 2023. As part of its duties, during this quarter, HEM reviewed 77 notifications for appointments to exempt positions and issued 13 Advisories. The Executive Ethics Commission released one OEIG founded report relating to State hiring (Case No. 21-00329), which is discussed below. The quarterly report can be found on the OEIG website [here](#).

Employees' Failure to Disclose Information

Case No. 21-00717

The OEIG investigated an allegation that an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) employee had a conflict of interest because of his employment with a community drinking water supplier. IEPA regulates the supplier, and the company is required to conduct periodic self-monitoring and report to the IEPA. The OEIG discovered that the IEPA employee performed significant duties with the company, including reading water meters and performing various customer service functions. The IEPA employee also actively participated in company governance, such as being a primary contact for regulatory agencies and attending board meetings.

During his interview with the OEIG, the IEPA employee conceded that his employment with the company was a perceived conflict of interest. Although he began working at the company in 2013, the employee admitted that he had never provided written notification to IEPA, which would have allowed the agency to evaluate any potential conflict of interest. He said that he failed to notify IEPA "through a combination of procrastination and a rationalization that his role . . . was simply a glorified meter-reader and check-writer." As a result of the investigation, the employee received a written reprimand, and resigned from the water supplier.

OEIG Case No. 21-00717 is available on the OEIG website [here](#).

Case No. 21-00329

The OEIG received a complaint that an Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) employee had listed on an employment application that he had graduated from high school when he had not done so.

The OEIG obtained four separate employment applications for the employee dated August 27, 2013, October 27, 2013, March 12, 2015, and June 25, 2017 (for different positions). All of these applications in the employee's name were marked with a handwritten "X" in the "Yes" box in response to the question "High School Graduate?" During his OEIG interviews, the employee said he had not graduated from high school, nor had he passed the General Educational Development test. The employee admitted that the applications were his and that the signature and handwriting on the applications were his. The employee was terminated as a result of the investigation.

OEIG Case No. 21-00329 is available on the OEIG website [here](#).