



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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Publications

- The Executive Ethics Commission recently published an additional three OEIG investigative reports relating to Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) fraud by State employees, adding to the 14 that had been previously published. All three employees in these most recently published cases were discharged as a result of the investigations. Those reports (Case Nos. 23-00134, 23-00135 & 23-00152) are available on the OEIG website [here](#).

Outside Employment Investigations

State employees may wish to engage in employment or activities outside their State job. While this is not necessarily improper, employees must take care to comply with agency policy, fully disclose any outside interests, and not conduct outside activity on State time or using State resources. Two recently published investigations illustrate the pitfalls for public employees working at jobs outside their public employment.

In [Case No. 21-02272](#), the OEIG investigated allegations that an Illinois Department of Transportation employee, who was also an Illinois city official, was performing city duties on State time. The OEIG uncovered that the employee violated agency policy by not fully disclosing her outside employment, which also included service as a township official; interests in two businesses; and work for another company. Furthermore, the employee conducted meetings and spent time on her personal cell phone during State-work time; the OEIG analysis of the records revealed that during an 18-month work period (consisting of 301 workdays), she spent the equivalent of 135 full workdays on her personal cellphone. Lastly, the employee engaged in prohibited political activity in violation of the Ethics Act by engaging in campaign-related phone calls and/or texts on compensated State time.

In [Case No. 22-01632](#), a health service employee at the Illinois Department of Human Services had a second job at a nearby hospital. However, the employee improperly used State sick time to work at the hospital on five occasions in 2022. The employee also inaccurately represented that her secondary employment was limited to Mondays and every other weekend when she was actually working on other weekdays. The employee received a three-day suspension, and the agency ensured that the hours listed on her most recent secondary employment disclosure did not conflict with her State work hours.

The OEIG recommends agency policies require employees to fully and accurately disclose the substance and schedule of outside employment so that employers can assess whether the activity conflicts with official duties or hours. Any employee with questions about secondary employment should contact their ethics officer. A list of ethics officers is [here](#).