



Illinois Ethics Matters

November 17, 2025

oeig.illinois.gov

Honesty, Integrity, Service

A newsletter from the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies
of the Illinois Governor

Office of Executive Inspector General

Susan M. Haling
*Executive Inspector
General*

Neil P. Olson
General Counsel

Fallon Opperman
*Deputy Inspector
General & Chief of
Chicago Division*

Erin K. Bonales
*Director, Hiring &
Employment
Monitoring Division*

Christine Benavente
*Deputy Inspector
General-Executive
Projects*

Angela Luning
*Deputy Inspector
General & Acting
Chief of Springfield
Division*

Ogo Akpan
*Chief Fiscal Officer &
Chicago Operations
Manager*

To file a complaint
with the OEIG,
visit our website:

oeig.illinois.gov



Or call us at:

Main Line:
(312) 814-5600

Hotline:
(866) 814-1113

Announcements

- The OEIG is pleased to announce the hiring of two new staff members: **Brett Christensen**, Assistant Inspector General, and **Caitlin Cummings**, Legislative and Training Compliance Attorney.

Failing to Cooperate with OEIG Investigations

The duty to cooperate is not limited to appearing for interviews and complying with other OEIG requests. Failure to cooperate also includes “intentional omissions and knowing false statements” made to the OEIG. If the OEIG has reason to believe a witness is providing false statements or intentionally omitting information during an investigation, the OEIG may make recommendations for discipline, if appropriate.

In one such case, the OEIG received allegations that a Bureau of Civil Affairs (BCA) investigator at the Department of Human Services (DHS) had a conflict of interest based on her investigation into harassment claims made by a DHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) employee with whom she allegedly had a personal relationship.

According to witnesses interviewed in the OEIG investigation, the BCA investigator and the DHS OIG employee appeared to have a close relationship when they previously worked on the same floor at DHS. The OEIG discovered that in a two-and-a-half month period, the pair exchanged approximately **767** text messages, and approximately **32** calls that were over 60 seconds long, on their personal phones.

In addition, the OEIG found emails showing the DHS OIG employee sent a version of her complaint to the BCA investigator a day prior to it being filed with BCA, asking her to review it. Minutes after the email was sent, records show the two exchanged texts and spoke to each other on their personal phones for a total of over two hours. The filed version of the complaint narrative to BCA the next day was significantly revised and about twice as long as the original draft.

During her OEIG interview, the DHS OIG employee denied ever talking with the BCA investigator on the phone outside of work and denied having anyone assist her in completing or filing the complaint. Similarly, the BCA investigator told the OEIG she had never spoken to the DHS OIG employee outside of work, had not provided any guidance to her regarding the BCA complaint, and had not spoken to her about the OEIG investigation.

However, a review of the BCA investigator’s personal cell phone records showed that shortly after the OEIG interview of the DHS OIG employee concluded, a five-hour call was made to the DHS OIG employee’s phone.

The OEIG concluded that both employees provided false statements and intentional omissions in violation of the Ethics Act. Given both DHS employees’ roles as investigators, which requires them to be credible and present facts in an objective and truthful manner, the OEIG recommended that they be terminated. DHS terminated the employees. The OEIG final report in Case No. 20-01425 is available on the [OEIG website](http://oeig.illinois.gov).