

Whistleblower Protection Information

Department of Commerce employees, contractors, grantees, and subcontractors/subgrantees have the right to report waste, fraud, and abuse without fear of reprisal.

Whistleblowers play a critical role in keeping our government honest, efficient, and accountable. Whistleblower reports can save lives, protect taxpayer funds, and help stop fraud, waste, abuse, and gross mismanagement.

Commerce OIG takes allegations of whistleblower retaliation seriously and works to protect Department employees, contractors, grantees, and subcontractors/subgrantees who identify potential wrongdoing from unlawful reprisal.

Commerce OIG has a designated **Whistleblower Protection Coordinator** and operates a “24/7,” publicly available hotline for anyone to report suspected violations.

The Commerce OIG Whistleblower Protection Program is responsible for:

- ★ **Educating** Department employees, contractors, grantees, and subcontractors/subgrantees about their whistleblower rights and protections.
- ★ **Promoting** the timely and appropriate handling of protected disclosures and allegations of reprisal.
- ★ **Informing** whistleblowers about other avenues for relief.
- ★ **Coordinating** with OIG units to ensure the timely handling of whistleblower disclosures and communication with whistleblowers throughout the process.



Contact Commerce OIG’s Whistleblower Protection Coordinator at WBCoordinator@oig.doc.gov with questions about your rights under whistleblower protection laws and for more information.

Employees should report allegations of waste, fraud, abuse, corruption, or dangers to public health and safety—as well as any retaliatory actions for blowing the whistle.

Retaliation against whistleblowers is unlawful. Commerce OIG can investigate allegations of whistleblower retaliation brought by federal employees, uniformed NOAA Corps officers, and federal contractors and grantees.

For More Information

Commerce OIG Hotline

<https://www.oig.doc.gov/Pages/Hotline.aspx>

Phone: Toll-Free 800-424-5197

The Commerce OIG Hotline accepts tips and complaints from all sources about potential fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement in Department programs. Allegations can be reported anonymously. Hotline tips, which are not possible without whistleblowers, help Commerce OIG identify and eradicate fraud, waste, and abuse.

Commerce OIG Whistleblower Protection Program

<https://www.oig.doc.gov/Pages/Whistleblower-Protection-Program.aspx>

Department employees, contractors, grantees, or subcontractors/subgrantees can contact the Whistleblower Protection Coordinator at WBCoordinator@oig.doc.gov with questions about their rights and whistleblower protection laws.

The Whistleblower Protection Coordinator can provide information to employees, contractors, grantees, or subcontractors/subgrantees but is not permitted to act as a legal representative, agent, or advocate for them.

U.S. Office of Special Counsel

<https://osc.gov/>

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel is an independent federal agency that protects federal employees from prohibited personnel practices, including whistleblower retaliation.

