

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Investigations of Improper Activities by State Employees, January 2004 Through June 2005

ALLEGATION NUMBER I2003-0853 (REPORT I2004-2),
SEPTEMBER 2004

Department of Health Services' response as of October 2005

Investigative Highlight . . .

For eight months, one employee regularly used a state vehicle for his 180-mile daily commute.

We investigated and substantiated an allegation that managers and employees at the Department of Health Services (Health Services) regularly used state vehicles for their personal commutes.

Finding: Health Services' employees received a benefit from their misuse of state vehicles.

In an effort to justify a business need for the number of vehicles leased by a Health Services' office (office), the office manager allowed employees under her supervision to use state vehicles for their personal commutes. Nine employees, including the manager, used state vehicles to commute between their homes and the office in violation of state laws and regulations. We determined that as a result of their misuse of state vehicles, office employees received a personal benefit of \$12,346. Because the employees received a personal benefit as a result of the manager's decision, it appears that they violated state law prohibiting the use of state resources for personal gain.

Health Services' Action: Corrective action taken.

Health Services reported that it served the manager with a formal reprimand and required her to reimburse the State \$11,040, which represents her personal use of state vehicles and the misuse of state vehicles she authorized for her subordinates. Health Services reduced another manager's pay by 5 percent for two months and required her to reimburse the State \$1,466 for her personal use of state vehicles. Finally, Health Services required three other employees to pay a total of \$582 for their misuse of state vehicles.

