

Department of Health Services

Investigations of Improper Activities by State Employees, February 2007 Through June 2007

INVESTIGATION I2006-1012 (REPORT I2007-2), SEPTEMBER 2007

Department of Health Services' response as of December 2007

We asked the Department of Health Services (Health Services) to assist us with the investigation, and we substantiated that an employee at Health Services misused state time, resources, and facilities for personal purposes that were inconsistent with the performance of his duties.¹ In addition, Health Services found other misuses of state resources.

Finding #1: The employee inappropriately used his state computer for personal benefit and entered a state building for nonwork-related reasons.

The employee accessed Internet sites on several occasions from July 2006 through October 2006 that were inappropriate. Specifically, Internet monitoring reports showed the employee visited modeling Web sites and Internet-based e-mail sites during the employee's regular weekday work schedule and on six nonbusiness days, such as weekends and holidays. In addition, Health Services found that the employee had no permission to enter the building on any of the six nonbusiness days. Moreover, on one weekend day, the employee's spouse accompanied him into the building. Health Services also determined that on nine days—eight of which were workdays—the employee spent more than three hours each day accessing the Internet, including viewing some modeling Web sites where his spouse had profiles and photos posted. Finally, Health Services found that, on one weekend day, the employee uploaded modeling photos of his spouse.

Health Services' Action: Partial corrective action taken.

Health Services reported that it initiated content filtering of Internet sites, making certain sites—such as modeling Web sites and Internet-based e-mail—inaccessible to its employees. It further stated that it modified the employee's building access to normal business days and hours only and suspended his Internet access.

When we reported the results of the investigation in September 2007, Health Services told us that it was pursuing adverse action against the employee but it appears that the status of the adverse action was inaccurate. Specifically, in December 2007 Health Services reported to us that the employee left in April 2007 before it completed its adverse action against him.

Investigative Highlight . . .

An employee at the Department of Health Services used a state computer for personal purposes, including uploading modeling photos of a spouse.

¹ The employee worked in a division of Health Services during the period of investigation. Health Services reorganized effective July 1, 2007. The employee's division is now within the Department of Public Health.

- ➔ More importantly, Health Services told us that prior to the employee's departure, it did not document in his personnel file the specific circumstances or events leading to its investigation of the employee's misuse of state time and resources. The employee is now employed at another department. As a result, we are concerned that the other department is unaware of the employee's misuse of state time and resources.

Finding #2: The employee misused state resources.

The employee inappropriately used his state e-mail account to send or receive 370 e-mails that were not work related. Specifically, the employee sent and received 113 e-mails that related to his pursuit of modeling assignments for his spouse, with many of the e-mails containing images of his spouse that were not appropriate in the workplace. The remaining 257 e-mails related to the employee's attempt to sell telecommunications services for an outside company and other personal activities.

Health Services' Action: Corrective action taken.

- ➔ Health Services suspended the employee's e-mail access in February 2007. However, as we stated previously, the employee left Health Services in April 2007 and, prior to his departure, it did not document in his personnel file the specific circumstances or events leading to its investigation of the employee's misuse of state time and resources.