



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

EMPIRE STATE PLAZA
AGENCY BLDG. 2, 16TH FLOOR
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12223
(518) 474-1010

Catherine Leahy Scott
INSPECTOR GENERAL

61 BROADWAY, SUITE 2100
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10006
(212) 635-3150

65 COURT STREET, 5TH FLOOR
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14202
(716) 847-7118

September 12, 2014

Gwen Wright
Executive Director
Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence
80 S. Swan Street, Suite 1157
Albany, New York 12210

RE: NYS IG 0868-119-2014

Dear Executive Director Wright:

In May 2014, my office received an allegation that [REDACTED] a Domestic Violence Administrator in the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV), committed time abuse and fraud. It was alleged that, on April 23 and 24, 2014, [REDACTED] made telephone calls from outside the state at times she had represented to OPDV that she was in New York City conducting training on behalf of OPDV.

Our preliminary investigation suggests that [REDACTED] may have falsified her time and attendance records by purporting to be working when she actually was outside the state on matters unrelated to her work at OPDV. We found 24 days between March 2013 and May 2014 when [REDACTED] made telephone calls from locations outside of New York State, while indicating in New York State's Leave and Accrual Tracking System (LATS) that she was present at work. On another occasion, [REDACTED] made a telephone call from San Bruno, California, but charged sick leave in LATS.

These discrepancies suggest that [REDACTED] may have falsified her time and attendance records. However, the nature of [REDACTED] position at OPDV is such that she arranges her own training schedule without substantial oversight, and is required on occasion to travel outside of the state to conduct trainings on behalf of OPDV. Without more information, my office cannot verify whether [REDACTED] worked on OPDV-related matters when she made telephone calls from outside the state.

It should be noted that in January 2014, OPDV transferred [REDACTED] from OPDV's New York City office to its Albany office, thereby affording OPDV greater oversight

over [REDACTED] Nevertheless, while the majority of the suspicious telephone activity took place prior to January 2014, some instances occurred after [REDACTED] transfer.

Based on the foregoing, I am referring this matter to your agency to determine the validity of [REDACTED] LATS submissions. To the extent OPDV finds that [REDACTED] submitted false time records, OPDV should seek reimbursement for salary not earned. In addition, I recommend that OPDV assess its controls currently in place to monitor employees' training and travel schedules.

Please advise me of the results of your examination by October 31, 2014. If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Special Deputy Inspector General Philip F. Foglia at (212) 635-3150.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Catherine Leahy Scott
Inspector General

cc:
Ellen C. Schell
Counsel
NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence
80 S. Swan Street, Suite 1157
Albany, NY 12210