



Illinois Ethics Matters

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Honesty, Integrity, Service

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

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Announcements

- The OEIG's Hiring & Employment Monitoring (HEM) Division recently released its quarterly report for the second quarter of calendar year 2024. During this period, HEM issued 23 Advisories to State agencies, which is the most for a quarter since 2020. The latest HEM quarterly report is available [here](#).

Conflicts of Interest

The OEIG regularly investigates allegations of conflicts of interest held by State employees that violate agency policy or other regulations. Conflicts of interest may occur, for example, when a State employee's decisions or recommendations related to their State work affect or are affected by their personal interests, including the interests of family members, friends, and associates. Two recently published OEIG investigations involve conflicts of interest.

Case No. 22-00458

In one recently published case, an Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) employee was also acting, and receiving payment, as the General Counsel for a business regulated by the ICC, as well as holding other positions with the business. During that time, the employee advised the business how to fill out ICC filings, and recommended the approval of ICC filings. The employee did not disclose this private interest to the ICC, nor did he recuse himself from any matters involving the business. The OEIG determined that this conduct constituted a conflict of interest that violated Illinois law, the agency's administrative rules, and agency policy. Since the employee retired from State employment, the OEIG recommended that the employee not be rehired by the agency, and the ICC accepted that recommendation. Case No. 22-00458 is available [here](#).

Case No. 22-02192

In another published case, the OEIG self-initiated an investigation that found an Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) employee was also employed by IDHS grantees in violation of agency policy. The OEIG revealed that the employee, through his consulting business, was doing work for two entities that also received IDHS grants. These grants were issued from the same IDHS program where the employee worked. In addition, the employee did not disclose on his report of secondary employment that the grantees were his consulting clients. As well as finding violations of the IDHS conflict of interest and secondary employment policies, the OEIG found that the employee violated the IDHS employee conduct policy by using State time for secondary employment. Because the employee had already left State employment, the OEIG recommended that he not be rehired, and IDHS accepted that recommendation. Case No. 22-02192 is available [here](#).