



CHAMPIONING BETTER GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

OSIG NEWS

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STATE FRAUD, WASTE & ABUSE HOTLINE CALLS SURGE DURING THIRD QUARTER

The Virginia Office of the State Inspector General (OSIG) saw a surge in the number of fraud, waste and abuse hotline calls during the third quarter of fiscal year 2017, generating a significant increase in executive branch agency investigations.

Hotline calls rose from 193 during the second quarter to 462 in the third, a nearly 140 percent increase. Resulting investigations also climbed from 118 in the second quarter to 208 in the third, a 76 percent jump.

“We attribute the surge in part to heightened awareness of the hotline among executive branch agency employees and Virginia citizens,” said OSIG State Hotline Manager Tim Sadler, referring to an email campaign to state employees in March. “OSIG’s new hotline Web form, which allows citizens to report allegations online, has also had a significant impact.”

Approximately one third of OSIG’s hotline investigations last quarter came in through the new Web form, which can be accessed at www.osig.virginia.gov. Citizens may also file complaints by calling 800-723-1615, emailing covhotline@osig.virginia.gov or faxing a tip to 804-371-0165.

“Every hotline call is completely anonymous and confidential,” said Michael Westfall, acting state inspector general. “The caller is protected, and we encourage citizens and state employees to contact us when they witness or suspect waste, abuse, corruption or fraudulent activities in Virginia’s executive branch.”

The majority of allegations last quarter were related to waste of state funds, employee misconduct, leave abuse and improper hiring practices. Other common calls include excessive or unnecessary purchases, procurement violations, conducting personal business on state time and misuse of a state vehicle.

Since its inception in 1992, the hotline has generated more than 16,000 cases and resulted in thousands of recommendations to improve controls, efficiency and effectiveness in state government.

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The Virginia Office of the State Inspector General (OSIG) was established July 1, 2012, to investigate fraud, waste, abuse and corruption in executive branch state government. The agency manages the State Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline; conducts investigations and performance reviews of state agencies; provides training and standards for the commonwealth’s internal audit divisions; and conducts inspections and reviews of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services facilities and programs. Additional information is available at www.osig.virginia.gov.