

Recognizing Abuse

Abuse involves behavior that is deficient or improper when compared with behavior that a prudent person would consider reasonable and necessary business practice given the facts and circumstances. Abuse also includes misuse of authority or position for personal financial interests or those of an immediate or close family member or business associate. Abuse does not necessarily involve fraud or violations of laws, regulations or provisions of a contract or grant agreement.

Examples of Abuse Indicators

- Creating unneeded overtime.
- Requesting staff to perform personal errands or work tasks for a supervisor or manager.
- Performing tasks related to a personal business during working hours and on government equipment.
- Misusing the official's position for personal gain (including not only the official's personal interests but the interests of family members or others).
- Making travel choices that are contrary to existing travel policies or are unnecessarily extravagant or expensive.
- Making procurement of vendor selections that are contrary to existing policies or are unnecessarily extravagant or expensive.