

False Claims

Pursuant to 18 USC § 287, a false claim is the presentation of a claim to any United States government official or to any department or agency thereof for money, property or services, knowing that the claim is false, fictitious or fraudulent. Examples of such claims are fraudulent travel vouchers, claims for payment for work performed on a contract, when in fact, the contractor knows the work was not performed/completed, and/or claims by a Federal government employee alleging that he/she was injured on the job.

Embezzlement of Government Funds

Unlawful conversion or misappropriation of any voucher, money, or item of value of the United States.

Contract Fraud

Entering into a written agreement by and between a “person” and a government entity, whereby the person knowingly and willfully providing false claims/statements/information for their benefit. Person - means a corporation, partnership, business association of any kind, trust, joint-stock company, or individual.

Theft from Programs Receiving Federal Funds

Theft from programs receiving Federal funds, that suffer loss of more than \$5,000 through or due to embezzlement, theft, fraud, or conversion.

Theft of Government Property

Theft from programs receiving Federal funds, that suffer loss of more than \$5,000 through or due to embezzlement, theft, fraud, or conversion.

Bribes and Gratuities

Bribery is an offer to give something of value with the intent that the recipient will do something improper or will fail to do something they should do within the authority of their position. This also includes organizations and programs receiving Federal funds (including Grants). Gratuities typically encompass a favor, benefit or anything of value given voluntarily or beyond obligation usually in-exchange for some service.

Conflict of Interest and Ethics Violations

DOS employees in their official capacity are prohibited from personally and/or substantially participating in any matter in which they have a direct or indirect financial interest. DOS employees are also prohibited from negotiating for employment with any person or company in which they have official interest.

Significant Mismanagement and Waste of Funds

Mismanagement is a collective term of waste and abuse, such as extravagant, careless or needless expenditure of Government funds or the misuse of Government property resulting from deficient practices, systems or controls.

Standards of Conduct Violations

All employees are expected to adhere to certain standards of conduct, which if violated, could reflect on the Department. Such prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Official or moral misconduct (on or off duty)
- Soliciting or accepting gifts from outside sources
- Alleged or suspected situations potentially affecting public confidence in the integrity of the Department
- Drug and/or alcohol abuse
- Abuse of authority
- Misuse of Government time, equipment, and/or information

Computer Crimes

Computer fraud includes anyone who knowingly accesses a computer without authorization; exceeds authorized access; obtains information from any department or agency of the United States to further an intended fraud; or to access prohibited sites such as pornographic websites.