

ESPIONAGE

The act of obtaining, delivering, transmitting, communicating, or receiving information about the national defense with the intent, or reason to believe, that the information may be used to the injury of the United States or to the advantage of any foreign nation.



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WHAT ARE THE INDICATORS?

When people commit espionage, they often exhibit one or more behaviors that we call espionage indicators. The fact that an individual exhibits one or more of these indicators does not automatically mean that person is engaged in espionage. However, such factors can be cause for concern and merit investigation to determine whether espionage is occurring. Espionage can have devastating consequences to you, your coworkers, and our nation. Prevent harm—recognize the indicators.

KEY ESPIONAGE INDICATORS

- » **Disgruntled:** displays signs of increased dissatisfaction with job, boss, or employer.
- » **Divided loyalties:** has personal or religious beliefs that conflict with assigned duties, or a greater allegiance to foreign countries than to the United States.
- » **Working odd hours:** shows up uncharacteristically early or stays unusually late.
- » **Unauthorized removal:** takes classified documents, files, or folders from secured areas without permission.
- » **Unauthorized devices:** “mistakenly” brings unauthorized electronic devices, such as smartphones or USB drives into secure areas.
- » **No need-to-know:** possesses or researches materials or information unrelated to their job role or duties.
- » **Seeking info:** makes inquiries to coworkers about sensitive or classified information that’s unrelated to their current duties.
- » **Unnecessary copying:** photocopies documents excessively or burns an inordinate amount of files to removable media, such as CDs.
- » **Unexplained affluence:** makes purchases that appear to be beyond their means.
- » **Bragging:** talks excessively about work and what they know.
- » **Foreign travel:** takes unscheduled, unexpected, unexplained, or unreported trips to foreign countries.
- » **Unreported contacts:** has contact with a representative of a foreign government or an unreported close and continuing relationship with a foreigner.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARE SUSPICIOUS

You are not expected to become a security officer or psychologist, nor are you expected to conduct your own investigation to verify or refute your observations. Your role is to be vigilant and to recognize and report individuals displaying espionage indicators; leave the investigating and analysis to the professional to address the issue discreetly. It is better to report something that turns out to be nothing than to regret not reporting after a tragedy occurs.