

Under the *Third Open Government National Action Plan*, issued on October 27, 2015, the Director of National Intelligence committed to develop a common whistleblower training curriculum that can be adopted by all federal agencies covered under Presidential Policy Directive 19, *Protecting Whistleblowers with Access to Classified Information*. In coordination with other government stakeholders and civil society, the Director of National Intelligence developed the *Protecting Whistleblowers with Access to Classified Information* training curriculum to ensure that all Executive Branch employees – including contractors, managers, and supervisors – understand the roles, responsibilities, and rights of whistleblowers eligible for access to classified information.

This four-part curriculum trains personnel eligible for access to classified information to effectively report illegality, waste, fraud, and abuse while protecting classified national security information. The curriculum includes stand-alone modules that address (1) general information on whistleblowing and the process for making a protected disclosure; (2) processes for addressing adverse, retaliatory actions affecting a security clearance; (3) processes for addressing adverse, retaliatory personnel actions; and (4) best practices for managers and supervisors. The training also defines key terms and provides references for applicable whistleblower laws and policies. This training is provided as a resource for Executive Branch agencies and is intended to be customized to suit each agency's whistleblower training program.

Each module includes:

Module 1 applies to all executive branch agency employees and contractors eligible for access to classified information and provides fundamental information on whistleblowing and available protections. Highlights in Module 1 include:

- Importance of whistleblowing
- Actions that constitute whistleblowing
- Reporting that constitutes a protected disclosure
- Officials that are designated to receive reports of wrongdoing
- Safeguards and statutory protections against reprisal

Module 2 applies to all executive branch agency employees and contractors eligible for access to classified information and addresses retaliatory adverse security clearance actions. Highlights in Module 2 include:

- Actions affecting eligibility for access to classified information
- Determining if a security clearance action is prohibited reprisal
- Review process and remedies available for prohibited security clearance actions

Module 3 applies to all employees of Intelligence Community elements and addresses retaliatory adverse personnel actions against IC whistleblowers. Highlights in Module 3 include:

- Protections against prohibited adverse personnel actions
- Determining if an adverse personnel action is prohibited reprisal
- Review process and remedies available for prohibited adverse personnel actions

Module 4 applies to all executive branch agency employees in supervisory positions with access to classified information and addresses best practices for managers and supervisors. Highlights in Module 4 include:

- Common sense advice and best practices for supervisors
- How to support an employee who reports alleged wrongdoing
- Importance of protecting classified information
- Actions prohibited under PPD-19