

109 Whistleblower Protections

Effective Date: 05/07/2018

We strive to create an ethical and open work environment, to ensure we have a governance and accountability structure that supports our mission, and to encourage and enable you to raise legitimate concerns about the occurrence of illegal or unethical actions within the County instead of turning to outside parties for resolution.

We expect you to report activities you consider to be illegal, unethical, or dishonest internally. You are not responsible for formally investigating the activity or determining fault or corrective measures. Instead, as discussed below, appropriate management officials are charged with these responsibilities.

Examples of illegal, unethical, or dishonest activities include, but are not limited to:

- Violations of federal, state or local laws
- Activities that potentially violate healthcare reform laws
- Theft or inappropriate removal or possession of property
- Unethical, immoral, or criminal conduct in or outside of the workplace
- Falsification of timekeeping records
- Violation of OSHA or other regulatory standards
- Sexual or other unlawful or unwelcome harassment
- Unauthorized disclosure of business “secrets” or confidential information

If you have knowledge of or a concern about actual or potential illegal, dishonest, or fraudulent activity, you should contact your immediate supervisor or the Department Head. The Human Resources Department and Department Head will investigate your concerns and determine the proper course of corrective action. If someone in the Human Resources Department is the subject of the whistleblower complaint, the County Administrator will become responsible.

Insofar as possible, we will try to maintain your confidentiality. However, your identity may have to be disclosed to conduct a thorough investigation, to comply with the law and to provide accused individuals their legal rights of defense. We will not retaliate, nor permit retaliation against anyone who brings forward a legitimate concern under this policy. If you believe you are being retaliated against, contact the Human Resources Department immediately. Protection against retaliation does not include immunity for any personal wrongdoing that is alleged and investigated.

If you intentionally or recklessly file a false or baseless report of wrongdoing, you will be subject to discipline up to and including termination. If you have questions about this policy, please contact your supervisor or the Department Head.