



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

July 2009

Subject: Ethical Concerns of Reporting Information

Dear Colleagues:

During our careers we will inevitably be faced with situations that are ethical challenges. We may be asked to do something that we feel is inappropriate or clearly in opposition to the law, regulation or directives. Or, we may be given information or observe activities that we feel should be reported to someone. In the federal government, the act of reporting such information is called whistleblowing — disclosing illegal or improper activity.

Federal employees are provided statutory protections by the Whistleblower Protection Act (WPA) when a retaliatory action is taken because of a protected disclosure such as waste, fraud and abuse. Unfortunately this law does not cover non-federal employees who may act on behalf of the government, such as designated school officials.

In consultation with school officials, SEVP has developed a process to allow designated school officials to disclose such information while remaining anonymous. School officials, who have such information, may e-mail it to Sevpcompliance@dhs.gov. This is a limited access e-mail account.

If you wish to remain anonymous, first establish a generic e-mail account at a provider such as Yahoo or Gmail, and use that account to e-mail the information that you wish to provide to SEVP. Your name is not required, but detailed information is required. SEVP will initiate a review of the information, and will take further action if the review uncovers substantive issues. Please keep the e-mail account open since SEVP may need to contact you for further information, even though we can not provide you with the outcome of the review or investigation.

If you have general questions concerning this process, please forward your questions directly to Sevpcompliance@dhs.gov.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lou Farrell".

Lou Farrell
Director, SEVP