

## What is a “whistleblower”?

A whistleblower is a person who sees and reports what they reasonably believe to be wrongdoing. They disclose that information to a person or entity with approval to receive it (unless the law bans the disclosure of that information). This disclosure is called a “protected disclosure.”

## Can I be a whistleblower?

Any Social Security employee can be whistleblower. Whistleblowers can also be Social Security contractors, subcontractors, grantees, subgrantees, or personal services contractors.

## How do I report wrongdoing, fraud, waste, or abuse?

Report wrongdoing, fraud, waste, or abuse directly to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) [hotline](#).<sup>1</sup>



# Whistleblower Information

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## **CAUTION: There are special rules for disclosing classified information!**

You must follow special rules when disclosing classified information. For more information, please contact the [OIG hotline](#)<sup>1</sup> or the [Whistleblower Protection Coordinator](#).<sup>2</sup>

## **Can I remain anonymous when I report the information?**

You can choose to remain anonymous when you report. This may limit OIG's ability to conduct a complete investigation.

OIG will protect your identity. OIG will only disclose your identity if you agree or if it is unavoidable to the investigation.

## **Is retaliation for whistleblowing something to be afraid of?**

You are protected from retaliation for whistleblowing. It is unlawful for any personnel action to be taken against you for whistleblowing. Your security clearance is also protected from retaliatory action.

File a retaliation complaint with the [U.S. Office of Special Counsel](#)<sup>3</sup> or through the [OIG hotline](#)<sup>1</sup> if you believe you are being targeted for whistleblowing.

## **What happens after I report possible wrongdoing?**

OIG will process your allegations. However, we must keep our investigations confidential. We cannot provide information on what actions we take. Unless an investigator contacts you, you will not be contacted by the OIG.

Visit OIG's [Whistleblower Protection Coordinator website](#)<sup>4</sup> or [contact us](#)<sup>5</sup> for more information.

<sup>1</sup><https://oig.ssa.gov/report/>.

<sup>2</sup>The Whistleblower Protection Coordinator can be contacted at [whistleblower.coordinator@ssa.gov](mailto:whistleblower.coordinator@ssa.gov). Please note, the Whistleblower Protection Coordinator cannot act as a legal representative, agent, or advocate for any individual whistleblower.

<sup>3</sup><https://osc.gov/>.

<sup>4</sup><https://oig.ssa.gov/fraud-reporting/whistleblower-protection/>.

<sup>5</sup>[whistleblower.coordinator@ssa.gov](mailto:whistleblower.coordinator@ssa.gov)