What is the OSC?

The primary mission of the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) is to safeguard the merit system by protecting federal employees from reprisal for whistleblowing and to provide a confidential channel to report waste, fraud, abuse, and threats to public health and safety. OSC is authorized to:

- Investigate allegations of reprisal and other activities prohibited by civil service law;
- Seek corrective action on behalf of individuals who are the victims of retaliation or other prohibited employment practices;
- Seek disciplinary action against agency officials who engage in retaliation;
- Hold agencies accountable for taking action to correct wasteful, inefficient, or unsafe practices.

Who is Protected by OSC?

Most civilian federal employees or applicants for employment in Executive Branch agencies are protected by OSC. However, the Intelligence Community, the GAO, the USPS, the FBI, and Uniformed Members of the Armed Forces are not covered by OSC’s authorizing statutes.

How to Make a Claim of Retaliation

Claims of reprisal for whistleblowing may be pursued by filing a complaint with OSC. OSC has an e-filing system that is available on the website: www.osc.gov.

How to Make a Disclosure of Waste, Fraud, Abuse, or Danger to Public Health or Safety

Individuals may report suspected unlawful, wasteful, or other improper activity to the OSC. Disclosures must be made in writing. The use of an OSC form is not required. Federal law guarantees confidentiality to the whistleblower when using the OSC disclosure channel.

OSC staff are also available for assistance. Individuals may contact the Complaints Examining Unit (CEU) Hotline at 1-800-872-9855 or the Disclosure Unit Hotline at 1-800-572-2249.

Members of Congress and their offices may refer employees to OSC. We will work with the Congressional office and the individual to ensure that the claim is referred to the appropriate area and handled properly. Please contact Tristan Leavitt, Principal Deputy Special Counsel, at tleavitt@osc.gov or 202-254-3602, with any questions.