
Who are we?

Each federal agency has an independent Office of Inspector General (OIG) charged with conducting objective audits, investigations and inspections and evaluations, as well as preventing and detecting fraud, waste and abuse. Within NSF's OIG, the Office of Investigations handles allegations of wrongdoing involving organizations or individuals that receive awards from, conduct business with, or work for NSF.

What do we do?

OIG investigators examine allegations in which NSF is the potential victim of fraud by employees, grantees, contractors, or others. We receive allegations from many sources, including proposal reviewers, agency employees, the OIG hotline, other OIG offices and the public. NSF regulations also require that we handle all allegations of research misconduct, in addition to allegations of fraud, waste and abuse. These allegations may lead to civil or criminal investigations.

Where can you get additional information?

Internet
oig.nsf.gov

Telephone
703 292-7100

OIG Anonymous Hotline
1-800-428-2189

Fax
703 292-9158/9159

Write
National Science Foundation
Office of Inspector General
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22230

E-mail Hotline
oig@nsf.gov

Report any possible research misconduct, fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement associated with NSF programs and operations to our office.

OIG
Office of Investigations



Civil/Criminal Investigations

How do we assess allegations?

The OIG investigator objectively and thoroughly examines situations that may involve violations of statutes, abuse of federal rules and regulations, and other actions that could compromise the integrity or effectiveness of programs and operations of the National Science Foundation (NSF). Where necessary, assistance is enlisted from experts to augment investigative operations and to confirm details of matters under investigation. The investigations may result in civil, criminal, or administrative action.

What actions may be taken if wrongdoing is found?

If an investigation discloses evidence of criminal misconduct or civil fraud, the case is referred to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for prosecution. If DOJ declines criminal or civil prosecution, the matter may be referred to state or local authorities for prosecution or agency management for administrative action.

If an investigation discloses evidence of administrative misconduct, such as violations of standards of ethical conduct, research standards, or NSF

policies or procedures, we make recommendations for administrative action to the cognizant NSF official.

NSF management may take any appropriate action including but not limited to reprimand, demotion, suspension or termination of employment. Restitution may be required in cases involving loss or misuse of government funds or property. Civil action or criminal prosecution may be pursued in addition to and separate from, administrative actions.

Who must report wrongdoing?*

- NSF Employees (including special government employees)
- All Auditors hired to examine the use of NSF funds
- All institutions receiving NSF funds

*Note: Anyone **may** report wrongdoing.

Principal Statutes Enforced by OIG Office of Investigations

18 U.S.C. § 287
False Claims

18 U.S.C. § 286
False Claims Conspiracy

18 U.S.C. § 1001
False Statements

18 U.S.C. § 641 & 666
Embezzlement & Theft

18 U.S.C. § 1341 & 1343
Mail and Wire Fraud

18 U.S.C. § 201
Bribery

18 U.S.C. § 208
Conflicts of Interests

31 U.S.C. § 3729
False Claims Act