

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Investigations of Improper Activities by State Employees

ALLEGATION NUMBER I2003-0853 (REPORT I2004-2),
SEPTEMBER 2004

Department of Health Services' response as of October 2004

Investigative Highlight . . .

For eight months, one employee regularly used a state vehicle for his 180-mile daily commute.

We investigated and substantiated an allegation that managers and employees at the Department of Health Services (Health Services) regularly used state vehicles for their personal commutes.

Finding: Health Services' employees received a benefit from their misuse of state vehicles.

In an effort to justify a business need for the number of vehicles leased by a Health Services' office (office), the office manager allowed employees under her supervision to use state vehicles for their personal commutes. Nine employees, including the manager, used state vehicles to commute between their homes and the office in violation of state laws and regulations. We determined that as a result of their misuse of state vehicles, office employees received a personal benefit of \$12,346. Because the employees received a personal benefit as a result of the manager's decision, it appears that they violated state law prohibiting the use of state resources for personal gain.

Department of Health Services' Action: Corrective action taken.

Health Services agreed with our findings and reported that it conducted a cost/benefit analysis of state vehicle usage and returned four of the 12 vehicles used by the office. Additionally, Health Services reported that office employees no longer use state vehicles for personal use. Further, Health Services reported that it performed a detailed reconciliation of the state vehicle mileage logs with employee time sheets and based on those findings, it will prepare and serve notice of adverse action to the affected employees.

