

Summary: Convenience Checks issued by former BIA Employee

Report Date: November 2, 2015

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) recently concluded an investigation into allegations that a retired Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) employee who worked for BIA's Papago Agency issued more than \$6,000 in convenience checks to a day laborer employed by the agency during fiscal year 2014. The complainant felt the use of the checks potentially indicated fraud.

Our investigation found no violation of law, regulation, or BIA policy. Specifically, we found that the Papago Agency supervisor authorized the employee to issue the checks, but the employee did not submit the required tax information correctly because he did not understand the policy and had difficulty with the Government-wide financial database. The payments covered necessary custodial services that the agency had no staff to perform.

We referred our investigation to BIA for information only.

This is a summary of an investigative report that was issued internally to the U.S. Department of the Interior. This summary was posted to the web on February 11, 2016.

