



Inspector General

2025-0001-INVI-P — Allegation of Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) Fraud

Suspected Violations of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) "Workers' Compensation" and "Standards of Conduct" Policies; and Violations of Title 18 U.S. Code § 1920 False statement or fraud to obtain Federal employees' compensation. **Not Substantiated**

In March of 2023, the AOC Office of Inspector General (OIG) initiated a proactive investigation (2023-0002-INVPRO-P) to review the AOC's FECA program to detect instances of abuse of the program and ensure the individuals receiving funds complied with AOC and U.S. Department of Labor Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) policy.

That review identified an AOC employee who received FECA assistance despite concerns raised by both the AOC OIG and the Human Capital Management Division. Additionally, on July 10, 2024, the AOC OIG received a complaint that alleged the AOC employee filed a fraudulent FECA claim for a back injury sustained while sweeping the floor at the AOC. The complaint further alleged that the employee had been in a non-work-related motor vehicle accident around the time of the claim and had been seen in the AOC office on multiple occasions appearing uninjured. According to the complainant, the employee had shown a pattern of filing FECA claims, and while out of work in 2023 due to a FECA claim, coworkers observed them coaching and playing softball.

The OIG's investigation showed that the employee received benefits for two FECA claims between 2023-2024. The employee filed a claim in 2021, with treatment spanning into 2023. The AOC challenged the FECA claim, which resulted in the OWCP obtaining a second physician's review and affirmed the employee could return to work in 2023, with restrictions. The employee subsequently filed a FECA claim in 2024, at which time they were placed on OWCP leave for one month and then leave without pay.

The investigation showed that both claims were filed correctly with supporting medical documentation and the employee was approved for FECA benefits by OWCP. According to physician's notes, both medical conditions limited the employee's ability to carry heavy objects and perform strenuous activities but still allowed them to walk and do other light movement. The investigation did not find corroborating evidence related to a possible motor vehicle accident or their participation in recreational softball.

The OIG's investigation did not yield sufficient evidence to contradict the employee's claims that their injuries happened while on duty at the AOC. In January of 2025, after being on leave without pay since 2024, the employee was terminated from the AOC.

Final Management Action: The case is closed.