

POST FOR OVERSIGHT.GOV

2020-0004-INVI-P – Suspected False Statement or Fraud to Obtain Federal Employees' [Workers'] Compensation: Not Substantiated – Suspected Violations of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Standards of Conduct Policy: Not Substantiated

The AOC Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a complaint from the AOC's Workers' Compensation Programs Unit concerning a workplace injury suspected to be fraudulent. In Fall 2019, an AOC employee filed a workers' compensation claim for a work related injury sustained while performing their job.

While processing the workers' compensation claim, the Workers' Compensation Programs Unit obtained medical documentation pertaining to the AOC employee's injury. During a review of the medical documents, it was noted that in Spring 2019, the AOC employee had an injury that appeared to be identical to the injury the AOC employee sustained in Fall 2019. During the review of that documentation there were no indications the injury was surgically repaired. Based on the medical documentation, the Workers' Compensation Programs Unit suspected the AOC employee submitted a false claim for compensation, knowing they had a pre-existing non-work related injury in Spring 2019, which may have been a contributing factor to the injury sustained in Fall 2019.

The investigation determined the AOC employee did not submit a false workers' compensation claim. The OIG requested and reviewed the medical treatment records from the AOC employee's physician. The review determined that in Spring 2019, the AOC employee had a surgical procedure to repair their injury. Later that Spring, the AOC employee was examined following the surgical procedure and cleared to return to work. However, despite the surgical procedure, the AOC employee was reinjured in Fall 2019, while performing their job. Based on our findings, the surgical procedure in Spring 2019, indicated the AOC employee had taken corrective steps to repair their injury at that time. The AOC employee attended a follow-up surgery examination and the attending physician released the AOC employee to return to regular work. The physician did not cite any limitations and the AOC employee was able to perform their work without any restrictions. Based on a review and receipt of the operative report, it was determined the AOC employee's claim was not false; therefore, there was no need to proceed with this investigation. There were no indications the AOC employee attempted to hide or not disclose their previous injury that contributed to the work related injury sustained in Fall 2019.

Final Management Action: The investigation is closed.