



# OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

## *2023-0015-INVI-P – False Medical Documentation*

### **Suspected Violations of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) “Standards of Conduct,” “Government Ethics” and “Absence and Leave” Policies; and Title 18 U.S.C. §1001 “False Statements” **Substantiated.****

The AOC Office of Inspector General (OIG), received an allegation that claimed an employee provided a fraudulent, unsigned medical excuse following their return from sick leave on June 4, 2023. The employee had initially requested annual leave in conjunction with their scheduled days off. Due to concerns that the employee was “developing a pattern” of requesting leave on weekends they were scheduled to work overtime, the employee’s supervisor stated they were going to deny the annual leave request for June 4, 2023. The employee then deleted the request for annual leave and submitted a request for sick leave, which the supervisor (after consulting with the Human Capital Management Division) approved. When the employee returned to work, the supervisor requested a medical excuse and the employee provided an unsigned note alleging he was seen at a dental practice on Sunday, June 4, 2023, at 5:00 pm, a date and time that the dental practice was closed.

The OIG initiated an investigation into violations of AOC policy, including Order 752-2, Standards of Conduct, April 25, 2014; Order 630-1, Absence and Leave, March 28, 2014; and Order 38-1, Government Ethics, November 1, 2018.

Testimonial evidence provided by the dental provider and documentary evidence obtained through legal process confirmed that the employee had not been seen at the dental practice on the date and time provided on the medical excuse. Additionally, the dental practice had not provided the employee with the medical excuse note provided to the AOC supervisor.

The OIG was unable to confirm who authored the medical excuse but was able to confirm that the employee’s spouse was employed at the dental practice and e-mailed the medical excuse to the employee.

During their interview with the OIG, the employee consistently stated that they were at a dental appointment on Sunday, June 4, 2023, even after being advised of the potential criminal violations and presented with evidence to the contrary.

**Final Management Action:** The OIG substantiated that the employee violated multiple AOC policies and the administrative violations were submitted to the Acting Architect of the Capitol for action deemed appropriate, if any. The OIG referred the substantiated false statements charge under Title 18, United States Code §1001 to the Department of Justice for prosecutorial consideration, however, it was declined due to the availability of administrative remedies. The case is closed, and management action is pending.