

## **Summary: Falsification of Sick Leave by former OST Employee**

**Report Date: February 1, 2018**

OIG investigated allegations that an employee at the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) lied about her cancer diagnosis, forged medical records, falsified documents, and abused her own sick leave and leave donated by coworkers.

Our investigation confirmed the allegations. We found no evidence that the OST employee had been diagnosed with cancer or that she received medical care for cancer as she claimed. On 15 occasions, the employee submitted physicians' notes to OST containing forged signatures from 5 separate medical providers. As a result of the falsified physicians' notes, the employee was authorized 256 hours of her own sick leave and received 28 hours of donated leave from her coworkers.

The employee left the Department before we issued our report. The U.S. Attorney's Office in New Mexico declined to prosecute this matter.

This is a summary of a report of investigation that we provided to the Director of OST.

