

Summary: Investigation of Alleged Workers Compensation Fraud

Report Date: January 15, 2015

Workers' compensation data for a former BIA employee led OIG to investigate why the claimant had failed to respond to requests by the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Office of Worker's Compensation Programs (OWCP) for an updated report of earnings and current medical information. When recipients of compensation funds through OWCP do not report such information in a timely manner, this behavior raises the possibility that claimants could be employed elsewhere, essentially working "off record." OWCP recipients are prohibited from having outside earnings.

We did not find any fraud committed by the claimant, a long time recipient of workers compensation coverage. A DOL wage earnings report and a Social Security Administration (SSA) query for SSA benefits both showed negative results. OIG also found no evidence of other employment by the claimant. The claimant updated his medical information and earnings reports. As a result, his OWCP payments resumed. OIG closed the case, and no further action was taken.

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 October 13, 2015.

