



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

U.S. Department of Justice

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INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

Findings of Misconduct by an FBI Special Agent for the Unauthorized Disclosure of Court-Sealed, Sensitive Law Enforcement Information to the Media

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) initiated an investigation of a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Special Agent following the Special Agent self-reporting that he had disclosed information to a member of the media about the FBI's planned execution of search warrants in an FBI investigation. The Special Agent made the self-disclosure to prosecutors in the criminal case arising from the FBI investigation in which the warrants were executed.

The OIG investigation found that the Special Agent intentionally disclosed to a member of the media the exact date, time, and locations of two search warrants before the warrants were executed. The investigation also found that the Special Agent knew that the existence of the search warrants was under seal by court order, and that the information about the timing for execution of the warrants was non-public, sensitive law enforcement information that he was not authorized to disclose. The OIG concluded that the Special Agent's disclosure to the media member violated the court's sealing order, as well as FBI standards of conduct and FBI policies relating to the handling of sensitive information and media relations. After a review of the available evidence, prosecution was declined.

The OIG has completed its investigation and provided this report to the FBI for appropriate action.

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