

Whistleblower Disclosures



The Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989, updated by the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act (WPEA) of 2012, protects Federal employees from reprisal for disclosing information they reasonably believe evidences:

-  Violation of any law, rule, or regulation.
-  Gross mismanagement.
-  Gross waste of funds.
-  Abuse of authority.
-  Substantial and specific danger to public health or safety.

An Agency official's threat to take, propose, or not take a personnel action because of whistleblowing activities constitutes a prohibited personnel practice. The protection of Federal employee whistleblowers falls within the jurisdiction of the Office of Special Counsel (OSC), an independent agency. At NASA, under certain circumstances, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) may also review these matters.

You are protected if you make a lawful whistleblower disclosure to the OSC, the NASA OIG, or a NASA supervisor or manager. You are also protected if you make such a disclosure to other individuals or organizations, such as a congressional committee or the media, **provided** that the disclosure is not specifically prohibited by law **and** the information does not have to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign affairs. Whistleblowing involving classified information or systems may be done in accordance with the Intelligence Community Whistleblower Protection Act (ICWPA) which designates certain offices and persons to receive classified whistleblowing disclosures.

The WPEA expanded and clarified protections for whistleblowers. Specifically, it clarifies that employees are protected even if the disclosures are identified as part of their existing job duties, such as for auditors and safety inspectors.

Further, WPEA:

-  Protects disclosures even if made to an individual who participated in the alleged wrongdoing being disclosed.
-  Protects disclosures that have been previously made or were known.



Protects employees regardless of their motive (unless it is an illegal motive) for making the protected disclosure.



Protects verbal disclosures or those otherwise not made in writing.



Protects disclosures without regard to when the reported activity may have occurred.



Protects government scientists for disclosures related to the integrity of the scientific process.

References:

- Additional information about whistleblower protections, to include making protected disclosures and filing claims of reprisal for whistleblowing activities, can be accessed on the OSC Web site at: <http://www.osc.gov/wbdisc.htm>.
- OIG's [Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman](http://oig.nasa.gov) page, which can be found at: <http://oig.nasa.gov>. On the right side of the page under the **Contact NASA OIG** section, click the **Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman** link.
- You may contact Frank LaRocca, the NASA Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman (who also serves as Counsel to the NASA Inspector General) at (202) 358-2575 or by e-mail at HQ-OIG-Counsel@mail.nasa.gov.

Any questions concerning this notice, contact:

NSSC Customer Contact Center

1-877-677-2123 (1-877-NSSC123) or nssc-contactcenter@nasa.gov