

WHISTLEBLOWER

A whistleblower as defined by this Policy is an employee or contractor of The Urbana Free Library who reports an activity that they consider to be illegal or dishonest to one or more of the parties specified in this Policy. The whistleblower is not responsible for investigating the activity or for determining fault or corrective measures; appropriate management officials are charged with these responsibilities.

Examples of illegal or dishonest activities are violations of federal, state, or local laws; billing for services not performed or for goods not delivered; and other fraudulent financial reporting.

If an employee/contractor has knowledge of or a concern of illegal or dishonest fraudulent activity, the employee/contractor is to contact the Auditor (the Associate Director responsible for Human Resources), or, if that individual is the subject of the complaint and/or not available, the Executive Director. The employee/contractor must exercise sound judgment to avoid baseless allegations. An employee/contractor who intentionally files a false report of wrongdoing will be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

Whistleblower protections are provided in two important areas—confidentiality and against retaliation. Insofar as possible, the confidentiality of the whistleblower will be maintained. However, identity may have to be disclosed to conduct a thorough investigation, to comply with the law, and to provide accused individuals their legal rights of defense. The Library will not retaliate against a whistleblower for:

- Reporting an improper governmental action pursuant to this Policy;
- Cooperating with an investigation by an auditing official related to a report of improper governmental action; or,
- Testifying in a proceeding or prosecution arising out of an improper governmental action.

This protection includes, but is not limited to, protection from retaliation in the form of an adverse employment action such as denial of adequate staff to perform duties; frequent staff changes; frequent and undesirable office changes; refusal to assign meaningful work; unsubstantiated letters of reprimand or unsatisfactory performance evaluations; demotion; reduction in pay; denial of promotion; transfer or reassignment; suspension or dismissal; or other disciplinary action made because of an employee's protected activity under this Policy.

Any whistleblower who believes they are being retaliated against should contact the Auditor, or their designee, immediately. Reports of retaliation must be made in writing and within 60 (sixty) days of learning of the retaliatory action. The right of a whistleblower for protection against retaliation does not include immunity for any personal wrongdoing that is alleged and investigated.

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All reports of illegal and dishonest activities pursuant to this Policy must be made in writing and will be promptly investigated as outlined in the Library's Whistleblower Procedure.

External Reporting: The purpose of this policy is to establish prompt, thorough, and effective procedures for responding to every report and incident so that problems can be identified and remedied by the Library. However, all Library employees have the right to contact the appropriate governmental body directly for information regarding filing a formal complaint with those entities.

Adopted November 9, 2021

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