



# Illinois Ethics Matters

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*Honesty, Integrity, Service*

A newsletter from the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies  
of the Illinois Governor

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## Announcements

- OEIG staff will present at the Executive Ethics Commission's Ethics Officer conference that is scheduled for April 20 and 21, 2022. The OEIG's presentation will address prohibited political activity, and will highlight current trends and issues. The OEIG thanks the EEC for once again being invited to participate.
- The OEIG's Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Working Group recently rolled out an internal employee mentorship program following a successful pilot program last year. For more information about our DEI initiatives, please visit our website [here](#).

## OEIG Investigation of Child Care Provider Leads to Criminal Convictions and Termination

An important component of OEIG investigations is the OEIG's ability to refer allegations to a law enforcement authority for criminal prosecution. A recently released investigation about a child care provider receiving funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) illustrates this process.

DHS provides subsidies through its Child Care Assurance Program (CCAP) so that low-income families can receive quality, affordable child care services. The OEIG received a complaint that payments for CCAP-related child care services were issued in the name of an individual who had never provided child care services nor received any of the payments. Through its investigation, the OEIG found evidence that payments were, in fact, issued to individuals who did not actually provide any child care services and that the payments were ultimately collected by individuals named Krystal Moreno and Roy Esteviz. The improper payments totaled almost \$40,000.

The OEIG referred this matter to the Illinois Office of Attorney General for potential criminal prosecution. Ms. Moreno and Mr. Esteviz were indicted on charges of fraud and theft relating to Ms. Moreno's falsification of CCAP documents and their receipt of payments from the State of Illinois for child care services not rendered. (After the issuance of the OEIG investigation report, Ms. Moreno and Mr. Esteviz each pled guilty to one felony count; they also paid restitution to DHS.)

The OEIG investigation also revealed that Ms. Moreno was operating a daycare center, named Heaven's Little Angels Academy, that also received State funding from CCAP. The OEIG concluded that because of Ms. Moreno's indictment for serious fraud relating directly to her falsification of CCAP applications and monthly billing certifications, she was unfit to operate a child care center that received significant money from the State of Illinois based almost exclusively on her completion of the very same documents and her assertion that they were true and accurate.

As a further result of the investigation, DHS terminated Ms. Moreno and Heaven's Little Angels Academy as service providers. The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services confirmed that the daycare center was no longer operating. A copy of the report, [In re: Heaven's Little Angels Academy \(OEIG Case #16-00167\)](#), is available on the OEIG's website.