



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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Recent News

- The OEIG is pleased to announce that **Claire M. Roche** began as an attorney in the Hiring and Employment Monitoring unit and **Marina Bergamo** began as an Investigative Intern, both in the Chicago office.

DHS Caseworkers Improperly Processed Benefit Applications



An OEIG investigation at the Department of Human Services (DHS) found that over 100 benefit applications may have been improperly processed.

The OEIG investigation began following a complaint that a DHS employee improperly processed a dozen Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) applications. Upon review, the OEIG found that several caseworkers improperly processed numerous D-SNAP applications by authorizing benefits for applicants who did not deliver their applications in person to a DHS office, in violation of DHS procedures. Some of these applications were incomplete and/or appeared to reflect false information. In addition, at least one caseworker processed an application for a relative, also in violation of DHS policy.

The OEIG found that two DHS employees processed for the majority of the improper D-SNAP applications and recommended that they be terminated. DHS sought their terminations but eventually permitted the employees to resign during the grievance process.

A copy of the report, [In re: Brewer & Girtley, Case #13-01358](#), is available for download on the OEIG website, inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov.

Be Safe, not Sorry, with the Revolving Door

The revolving door statute prohibits *any* current or former State employee from accepting post-State employment where the employee participated substantially in certain decisions applicable to the prospective employer. There is a smaller group of State employees, known as “C-Listers,” who are required to notify the OEIG before accepting any post-State employment. The OEIG will then determine whether the employment would violate the revolving door prohibition.

While only “C-Listers” are *required* to notify the OEIG prior to accepting non-State employment, *all* State employees are potentially exposed to liability. Therefore, EEC rules permit *any* State employee, with narrow exception, to seek a determination. If you are leaving State employment and are not on the C-List but nevertheless have a concern, you are encouraged to voluntarily seek a revolving door determination.

Agencies should ensure that their C-Lists are current in the online tracking system, and should use current revolving door forms from the OEIG website.