



STATE OF OHIO

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHIO INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATION FINDS OHIO BUREAU OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION EMPLOYEE IMPROPERLY ACCESSED AND DELETED CLAIM INFORMATION FROM INJURED WORKER'S FILE

Columbus, Ohio, October 23, 2018

The Office of the Ohio Inspector General issued a report of investigation today after investigating a complaint received from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (OBWC) alleging that Claims Specialist Supervisor Brenda Branum was improperly accessing the claim of an injured worker.

During a joint investigation with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, investigators determined that Branum accessed the injured worker's claim 30 times between May 31, 2014, and February 13, 2018. Investigators also learned the injured worker resided and leased a property owned by Branum. OBWC policy prohibits an employee from accessing claims if the employee has a specified business or personal relationship with the injured worker. Further, an OBWC employee can only access a claim if they have a business reason for doing so. The investigation determined that Branum could not have a valid business reason for accessing the injured worker's claim since she was precluded from doing so because of the existing landlord-tenant relationship between the parties. In addition, the Inspector General found a wrongdoing because Branum modified and deleted a change of address request by the injured worker who was moving as a result of a civil dispute between the parties.

The Office of the Inspector General is forwarding the report of investigation to the Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney for consideration.

Ohio Inspector General Report of Investigation file number 2018-CA00020 is now available at:

<http://watchdog.ohio.gov/investigations/2018investigations.aspx>

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