



Office of the Inspector General  
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

## DON'T BE AFRAID. SPEAK UP.



### WHAT IS A WHISTLEBLOWER?

A “whistleblower” discloses information he/she reasonably believes evidences: A violation of any law, rule, or regulation—Gross mismanagement—Gross waste of funds—Abuse of authority—A substantial and specific danger to public health or safety.

### WHAT IS WHISTLEBLOWER RETALIATION?

A federal employee authorized to take, or direct others to take, recommend or approve any personnel action may not take, fail to take, or threaten to take any personnel action against an employee because of protected whistleblowing. Where to report retaliation: U.S. Office of Special Counsel, 1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 218, Washington, DC 20036  
Hotline: 1-800-872-9855

### WHAT IS A WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN?

We educate employees about prohibitions on retaliation for protected disclosures; and about your rights and remedies against retaliation for protected disclosures.

<https://oig.ssa.gov/whistleblower-protection>