

Background



The corporate fraud policy is established to facilitate the development of controls that will aid in the detection and prevention of fraud against ABC Corporation. It is the intent of ABC Corporation to promote consistent organizational behavior by providing guidelines and assigning responsibility for the development of controls and the conduct of investigations.

Scope of Policy



This policy applies to any irregularity, or suspected irregularity, involving employees, as well as shareholders, consultants, vendors, contractors, outside agencies doing business with employees of such agencies, and/or any other parties with a business relationship with ABC Corporation (also called the Company).

Any investigative activity required will be conducted without regard to the suspected wrongdoer's length of service, position/title, or relationship to the Company.

Policy



Management is responsible for the detection and prevention of fraud, misappropriations, and other irregularities. Fraud is defined as the intentional, false representation or concealment of a material fact for the purpose of inducing another to act upon it to his injury. Each member of the management team will be familiar with the types of improprieties that might occur within his area of responsibility, and be alert for any indication of irregularity.

Any irregularity that is detected or suspected must be reported immediately to the Director of _____, who coordinates all investigations with the Legal Department and other affected areas, both internal and external.

Actions Constituting Fraud



The terms *defalcation*, *misappropriation*, and *other fiscal irregularities* refer to, but are not limited to:

- Any dishonest or fraudulent act
- Misappropriation of funds, securities, supplies, or other assets
- Impropriety in the handling or reporting of money or financial transactions
- Profiteering as a result of insider knowledge of company activities
- Disclosing confidential and proprietary information to outside parties
- Disclosing to other persons securities activities engaged in or contemplated by the company
- Accepting or seeking anything of material value from contractors, vendors, or persons providing services/materials to the Company. Exception: Gifts less than \$50 in value.
- Destruction, removal, or inappropriate use of records, furniture, fixtures, and equipment
- Any similar or related irregularity

Other Irregularities



Irregularities concerning an employee's moral, ethical, or behavioral conduct should be resolved by departmental management and the Employee Relations Unit of Human Resources rather than the _____ Unit.

If there is any question as to whether an action constitutes fraud, contact the Director of _____ for guidance.

Investigation Responsibilities



The _____ Unit has the primary responsibility for the investigation of all suspected fraudulent acts as defined in the policy. If the investigation substantiates that fraudulent activities have occurred, the _____ Unit will issue reports to appropriate designated personnel and, if appropriate, to the Board of Directors through the Audit Committee.

Decisions to prosecute or refer the examination results to the appropriate law enforcement and/or regulatory agencies for independent investigation will be made in conjunction with legal counsel and senior management, as will final decisions on disposition of the case.

Confidentiality



The _____ Unit treats all information received confidentially. Any employee who suspects dishonest or fraudulent activity will notify the _____ Unit immediately, and *should not attempt to personally conduct investigations or interviews/interrogations* related to any suspected fraudulent act (see REPORTING PROCEDURES section below).

Investigation results *will not be disclosed or discussed* with anyone other than those who have a legitimate need to know. This is important in order to avoid damaging the reputations of persons suspected but subsequently found innocent of wrongful conduct and to protect the Company from potential civil liability.

Authorization for Investigating Suspected Fraud



Members of the Investigation Unit will have:

- Free and unrestricted access to all Company records and premises, whether owned or rented
- The authority to examine, copy, and/or remove all or any portion of the contents of files, desks, cabinets, and other storage facilities on the premises without prior knowledge or consent of any individual who might use or have custody of any such items or facilities when it is within the scope of their investigation

Other Irregularities



Great care must be taken in the investigation of suspected improprieties or irregularities so as to avoid mistaken accusations or alerting suspected individuals that an investigation is under way.

An employee who discovers or suspects fraudulent activity will *contact the _____ Unit immediately*. The employee or other complainant may remain anonymous. All inquiries concerning the activity under investigation from the suspected individual, his attorney or representative, or any other inquirer should be directed to the Investigations Unit or the Legal Department. No information concerning the status of an investigation will be given out. The proper response to any inquiries is: "I am not at liberty to discuss this matter." *Under no circumstances* should any reference be made to "the allegation," "the crime," "the fraud," "the forgery," "the misappropriation," or any other specific reference.

The reporting individual should be informed of the following:

- Do not contact the suspected individual in an effort to determine facts or demand restitution.
- Do not discuss the case, facts, suspicions, or allegations with *anyone* unless specifically asked to do so by the Legal Department or _____ Unit.

Acting in Good Faith



Anyone reporting any irregularity that is detected or suspected must be acting in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the information provided. Allegations made maliciously or with knowledge of their falsity will not be tolerated. People making such allegations may be subject to institutional disciplinary action and/or legal actions by the individuals accused of fraudulent conduct.

Whistleblower Protection



Employees of ABC Corporation may not retaliate against a whistleblower for reporting an activity which that person believes to be fraudulent or dishonest with the intent or effect of adversely affecting the terms or conditions of employment (including, but not limited to, threats of physical harm, dismissal, transfer to an undesirable job assignment, demotion, suspension, or impact on salary or wages). A whistleblower is defined as an employee who informs a manager, supervisor, or Director of _____ about an activity which that person believes to be fraudulent or dishonest.

Whistleblowers who believe that they have been retaliated against may file a written complaint with the Director of _____. Any complaint of retaliation will be promptly investigated by the _____ and appropriate remedial measures will be taken if allegations of retaliation are proven. This protection from retaliation is not intended to prohibit managers or supervisors from taking action, including disciplinary action, in the usual scope of their duties and based on valid performance-related factors.

Termination



If an investigation results in a recommendation to terminate an individual, the recommendation will be reviewed for approval by the designated representatives from Human Resources and the Legal Department and, if necessary, by outside counsel, before any such action is taken. The _____ Unit does not have the authority to terminate an employee. The decision to terminate an employee is made by the employee's management. Should the _____ Unit believe the management decision inappropriate for the facts presented, the facts will be presented to executive level management for a decision.

Administration



The Director of _____ is responsible for the administration, revision, interpretation, and application of this policy. The policy will be reviewed annually and revised as needed.

Approval



CEO/Senior Vice President/Executive

Date