



## INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2010-12-0344

September 13, 2011

### DOE FORGERY

*Inspector General Staff Attorney Todd Shumaker, after an investigation by Special Darrell Boehmer, reports as follows:*

On December 16, 2010, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) was notified by the Human Resources Director at the Department of Education (DOE) that the agency had terminated one of its employees (Defendant) after discovering she had falsified her paycheck stubs in order to receive free childcare through the Children's Bureau in Indianapolis. DOE also discovered Defendant had used the signature stamp of a former DOE employee on the falsified documents she had submitted to the Children's Bureau. The stamp was found in Defendant's desk at the time of her termination. In addition to reporting these facts to the OIG, DOE assisted in the investigation.

The OIG is charged by the Indiana Legislature to address fraud, waste, and abuse in state agencies. IC 4-2-7-2(b).

OIG Special Agent Darrell Boehmer investigated the complaint. With the assistance of OIG Special Agent Dave Clark, Special Agent Boehmer conducted

interviews, reviewed documents, and found that Defendant had been submitting falsified copies of her bi-weekly payroll warrant to secure childcare assistance through the Children's Bureau for the care of her son. Specifically, Defendant had submitted to the Children's Bureau altered copies of payroll warrants from December 5, 2002 through December 13, 2010 to reflect that she was single instead of married and that her net pay was less than what she actually received from DOE. The Children's Bureau relied on the falsified documents provided by Defendant in twelve (12) semi-annual eligibility applications and recertifications to the Child Care Development Fund ("CCDF"). Defendant received assistance in the amount of fifteen thousand, nine hundred ten dollars (\$15,910.00).

Defendant stated to Special Agent Clark in an interview on March 7, 2011 that her "evil twin sister" had been responsible for the conduct in question. In investigating Defendant's claim, Special Agent Clark confirmed Defendant has a sister with a criminal history. However, the sister is not a twin but is instead older than Defendant by nearly eight years. In addition, Special Agent Clark reviewed Bureau of Motor Vehicle and Department of Correction photographs of the sister and did not find her likeness to be sufficiently similar to Defendant to confuse eyewitnesses who identified Defendant as being present at the Children's Bureau on December 13, 2010. Special Agent Clark followed up on additional claims made by Defendant in the interview but likewise found them to be unsubstantiated.

Special Agent Clark further reported to Special Agent Boehmer that he discovered copies of both the actual and altered payroll documents were located

in Defendant's email account. The falsification of the documents was also confirmed when compared against actual copies of Defendant's payroll warrants as verified by the Indiana Auditor of State's data system.

On September 1, 2011 Defendant was charged in Marion County with one count of Welfare Fraud, a C felony, and seven counts of Forgery, a C felony.

Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2011.

APPROVED BY:

/signed/

David O. Thomas, Inspector General