



INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Lori Torres, Inspector General

OFFICE: INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES (DCS)
TITLE: DCS CASEWORKER FALSIFYING RECORDS
CASE ID: 2018-05-0131
DATE: February 15, 2019

Inspector General Chief Legal Counsel, Tiffany Mulligan, after an investigation by Inspector General Special Agent Michael Lepper, reports as follows:

The Indiana General Assembly charged the Office of Inspector General (OIG) with addressing fraud, waste, abuse, and wrongdoing in the executive branch of state government. IC 4-2-7-2(b). The OIG also investigates criminal activity and ethics violations by state workers. IC 4-2-7-3. The OIG may recommend policies and carry out other activities designed to deter, detect, and eradicate fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, and misconduct in state government. IC 4-2-7-3(2).

On April 30, 2018, the OIG received a complaint from the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) alleging that a DCS Family Case Manager (FCM), Ulyssia Richmond, was falsifying her contact logs and perjured herself in regards to visits and case information in court. DCS became aware that Richmond was falsifying her case visits when the Adams County Prosecutor notified DCS that the mother of a child in a DCS case had not received visits from DCS for three months. DCS confronted Richmond with the allegations, and Richmond admitted that she falsified one entry in MaGIK, which is DCS's case management database. DCS immediately terminated Richmond's employment. DCS then reviewed Richmond's other cases and found

approximately twelve reports or visits that Richmond documented in MaGIK that may not have occurred.

OIG Special Agent Mike Lepper conducted an investigation into this matter. During the course of the investigation, Special Agent Lepper interviewed several witnesses, including Richmond, other DCS staff members, and caregivers in DCS cases in which Richmond served as the FCM. He also reviewed several documents, including text messages; emails; court documents; and MaGIK entries. Special Agent Lepper obtained a search warrant from Adams Superior Court to obtain the cellphone data from a smartphone DCS issued to Richmond.

Special Agent Lepper learned that Richmond served as an FCM in DCS's Adams County office from September 11, 2017, until her termination on March 23, 2018. He found eleven instances where documents and caregivers indicate that Richmond made false entries into the MaGIK database for face-to-face visits that never happened between January 16 and March 21, 2018. Six of these cases occurred in Adams County. One of the cases began in Adams County, where the family lived in 2016; however, the family moved to Allen County where the face-to-face visits continued.

Special Agent Lepper interviewed Richmond, who admitted to "a rough estimate" of "probably seven or eight times" that she created false home visit reports. When asked why she falsified these reports, she said that she was "stressed out." When asked where she was when these visits were supposed to have occurred, she said sometimes she was still in the office, sometimes she was helping others with their cases, and on two occasions, she just went home.

The OIG submitted the results of this investigation to the Adams County Prosecutor's Office. On February 13, 2019, the Adams County Prosecutor's Office charged Richmond with

six counts of Obstruction of a Child Abuse Investigation, all Class A Misdemeanors under Ind. Code § 31-33-22-2(b)(1). Accordingly, this investigation is closed.

Dated: February 15, 2019

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Torres". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori Torres, Inspector General