

**Washington State Auditor's Office**  
**Whistleblower Report**

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**Department of Corrections**

Report Date  
**July 31, 2008**

**Report No. WB 08-022**

Issue Date  
**August 11, 2008**



WASHINGTON  
**BRIAN SONNTAG**  
STATE AUDITOR



**Washington State Auditor  
Brian Sonntag**

August 11, 2008

Department of Corrections  
Thurston County  
Olympia, Washington

***Report on Whistleblower Investigation***

Attached is the official report on Whistleblower Case No. WB 08-022 for the McNeil Island Correction Center, Department of Corrections.

The State Auditor's Office received an assertion of improper governmental activity at the Correction Center. This assertion was submitted to us under the provisions of Chapter 42.40 of the Revised Code of Washington, the Whistleblower Act. At the request of the State Auditor's Office, the Department investigated the assertion independently and objectively through interviews and by reviewing relevant documents. We agree with the Department's conclusion. This report contains the results of the Department's investigation.

Questions about this report should be directed to Senior Investigator Sandy Miller at (360) 902-0378 or Director of Special Investigations Jim Brittain at (360) 902-0372.

**BRIAN SONNTAG, CGFM**  
WASHINGTON STATE AUDITOR

BS:sm

cc: Kathy Smith, Internal Audit Manager

# Investigation Summary

## State of Washington Department of Corrections

### **ABOUT THE INVESTIGATION**

A complaint was made alleging that a dental assistant with the Department of Corrections, McNeil Island Corrections Center has taken leave without submitting leave slips for over 1½ years. It was reported that this issue was brought to the attention of the Dental Assistant's supervisor but nothing has been done to address the issue.

A meeting was held with the Department's Internal Audit Manager at which time it was learned that the Department had also received a complaint and was in the process of conducting an internal investigation. It was decided to allow the Department to continue with its investigation and once it reached a determination, decide at that time if further investigation is warranted.

### **ASSERTION(S) AND RESULTS**

**An employee at McNeil Island Corrections Center is taking leave without submitting a leave slip.**

The Department found reasonable cause to believe an improper governmental action did occur.

After reviewing the Department's internal investigation it was determined that a full investigation into the assertion of improper governmental action was not warranted by the State Auditor's Office.

The Department reviewed the subject's daily logs against her leave slips and time summary for the time period January through December 2007 and found the subject had taken approximately 300 hours of leave without reporting it.

During this 12-month period, the subject failed to report 46 days she either arrived late or left early and 19 eight-hour days of leave without reporting it.

The Department advised that it met with the subject to give her the opportunity to review the hours. The subject disagreed with the amount of hours the Department felt she took, but did agree that she did take 285.30 hours without reporting it.

On May 7, 2008, the subject signed a Statement of Verification for Unreported Leave acknowledging that between January and December 2007 she accumulated 285.30 hours of unreported leave.

### **DEPARTMENT'S PLAN OF RESOLUTION**

The Department considers not reporting leave properly to be a serious matter. Disciplinary action has been taken, including requiring the employee to reimburse the Department for all leave taken but not reported in 2007, and attendance monitoring processes have been changed to prevent a re-occurrence.

## **AUDITOR'S REMARKS**

We thank Department officials and personnel for their assistance and cooperation during the investigation.

## **INVESTIGATION CRITERIA**

We came to our determination in this investigation by evaluating the facts against the criteria below:

RCW 42.52.070 Special Privileges

Except as required to perform duties within the scope of employment, no state officer or state employee may use his or her position to secure special privileges or exemptions for himself or herself, or his or her spouse, child, parents or other persons.

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