

Summary: DOI Manager Used His Public Office for the Private Gain of a Relative

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Report Number: 25-0898

The OIG investigated an allegation that a U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Manager violated Federal ethics laws by using his public office for the private gain of his adult child by providing his child's résumé to a subordinate DOI employee involved in the hiring process for a position with a Government contractor providing services to their DOI office. We substantiated the allegation.

In evaluating this allegation, we considered whether the DOI Manager's conduct constituted the "[u]se of public office for private gain," in violation of 5 C.F.R. § 2635.702, and determined that it did. Specifically, we found that the DOI Manager used his public office to assist his child in obtaining a position as a contractor providing services to DOI. The evidence showed that the DOI Manager used his Government position to induce two subordinate DOI employees to review and provide feedback on his child's résumé and that this occurred after the DOI Manager's supervisor directed the DOI Manager to recuse himself from the hiring process. The evidence also showed that the DOI Manager used his Government position to provide his child with nonpublic information and assistance in obtaining the contractor position. Specifically, the evidence showed that the DOI Manager informed his child of the position and provided his child with the job qualifications and position description, which had not been publicly posted and of which he was aware only through his official position.

We provided this report to DOI for any action deemed appropriate.¹

¹ This matter did not implicate anti-nepotism laws because the relevant Federal statutes apply only to employment in civil service positions and not contractor positions. See 5 U.S.C. §§ 3110(b) & 2302(b)(7).

