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## Public Safety

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## Whistleblower/Fraud, Waste and Abuse Information

### State Whistleblower Protections

Public employees have whistleblower protection through [Massachusetts law](#). Public employees who engage in the following activities are protected against retaliation:

- Disclosing, threatening to disclose, providing information, or objecting to any activity, practice, or policy that the employee reasonably believes is in violation of law, rule, or regulation, or poses a risk to public health, safety, or the environment.

Whistleblowers are protected from:

- Firing;
- Suspension;
- Demotion; and
- Any adverse employment action being taken as a reprisal

In addition, public employees have protection for reporting waste, fraud, and abuse to the [Massachusetts Inspector General](#), as follows:

"Any employee who has authority to take, direct others to take, recommend, or approve any personnel action, shall not, with respect to such authority, take or threaten to take any action against any employees as a reprisal for making a complaint or disclosing information to the inspector general, unless the complaint was made or the information disclosed with the knowledge that it was false or with willful disregard for its truth or falsity." M.G.L. c. 12A, § 14(c).

### Federal Whistleblower Protections

The Act, in Section 1553, provides additional whistleblower protection for recipients of Recovery Act ("stimulus") funds who report fraud, waste, and abuse to [federal](#) or [state](#) authorities. The law protects employees of state and local governments receiving Recovery funds, as well as subcontractors and grantees.

Whistleblowers are protected from:

- Termination;
- Demotion; and
- Discrimination as a reprisal for making a disclosure