

# SAO LEGAL AUTHORITY

According to Chapter 321 of the Texas Government Code, the State Auditor's Office is authorized to investigate specific acts or allegations of impropriety, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in the obligation, expenditure, receipt, or use of state funds associated with state agencies, colleges, or universities.

## HOW TO REPORT FRAUD AND ABUSE

### By Phone:

SAO HOTLINE  
1-800-TX-AUDIT  
(892-8348)



### By Internet:

[sao.fraud.state.tx.us](http://sao.fraud.state.tx.us)  
Fraud, Waste, and/or Abuse



### By Mail:

State Auditor's Office  
Attn: SIU  
P.O. Box 12067  
Austin, TX 78711



All reports of fraud, waste, and abuse are held in confidence. However, callers may choose to remain anonymous. When reporting fraud or abuse, please provide as much detail as possible so that appropriate action can be taken.

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# SPECIAL I INVESTIGATIONS U UNIT



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**TEXAS STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE**

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## What is the Special Investigations Unit?

The Special Investigations Unit's (SIU) mission is to improve the accountability of government by investigating allegations of impropriety and illegal acts affecting state resources.

The SIU consists of experienced professional investigators including:

- ★ Certified Public Accountants
- ★ Certified Fraud Examiners
- ★ Certified Fraud Specialists
- ★ Certified Government Auditing Professionals
- ★ Certified Internal Auditors
- ★ Certified Forensic Computer Examiners
- ★ Certified Forensic Interviewers
- ★ Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education Master Peace Officers
- ★ Investigative researchers
- ★ Paralegals

Depending on the type of fraud complaints received, the SIU may coordinate investigative work with the following entities:

- ★ Internal auditors and/or investigative groups
- ★ Federal and/or state prosecutors
- ★ Law enforcement agencies at the city, county, state, and/or federal levels

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## Why Report Fraud?

**IT'S THE LAW.** Texas Government Code, Section 321.022, requires state agencies and universities to report suspected fraud or unlawful conduct to the State Auditor's Office if there are facts (not just mere suspicion) that point to fraud or unlawful conduct. Persons or entities reporting fraud to the State Auditor's Office do not have to establish probable cause and/or have a suspect.

To report fraud, waste, or abuse occurring at a Texas state agency, college, or university call the SAO Hotline at 1-800-TX-AUDIT (892-8348). In addition, forms to report fraud, waste, or abuse are available on the SAO's Web site, <http://sao.fraud.state.tx.us>. Persons who report fraud may choose to remain anonymous.

## What Types of Crimes does the Special Investigations Unit investigate?

Criminal offenses investigated by SIU include but are not limited to:

- ★ Theft
- ★ Forgery
- ★ Tampering with governmental record
- ★ Securing execution of document by deception
- ★ Misapplication of fiduciary property
- ★ Conversion of funds
- ★ Abuse of official capacity
- ★ Gift to public servant by a person subject to his or her jurisdiction
- ★ Breach of computer security
- ★ Organized crime
- ★ Money laundering
- ★ Bribery

Section 31.03 of the Texas Penal Code increases penalties for thefts committed by public servants. Specifically, if the person committing the theft is defined as a public servant at the time of the offense, and if the stolen property came into the person's possession by virtue of his or her position, the punishment increases to the next highest category.