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About EthicsPoint

What is EthicsPoint?

EthicsPoint is a comprehensive and confidential reporting tool created by NAVEX Global to assist the City in addressing possible fraud, abuse, and other misconduct.

Why do we need a system like EthicsPoint?

- By creating open channels of communication, we can promote a positive environment and maximize productivity.
- Government entities are required by law to have an anonymous reporting vehicle to address accounting and auditing fraud.
- An effective reporting system will augment our other efforts to foster a culture of integrity and ethical decision-making.

Reporting – General

May I report using either the Internet or the telephone?

Yes. With EthicsPoint, you have the ability to file a confidential, anonymous report via either the telephone or the Internet.

What type of situations should I report?

The EthicsPoint system is designed for anyone to report any violation of our stated Code of Conduct, or other concern you may have.

If I see a violation, should I just report it in person or in an identifiable manner?

When you observe some behavior that you believe violates our code of conduct, we want you to report it. We recognize that there may be circumstances when you are not comfortable reporting the issue in person or in an identifiable manner. For these situations we have partnered with EthicsPoint. We would rather you report anonymously than keep the information to yourself.

Why should I report what I know? What's in it for me?

We all have the right to live and work in a positive environment and with that right comes the responsibility of acting in an ethical manner and letting the appropriate people know if someone is not acting appropriately. By working together, we can maintain a healthy and productive environment. Misconduct can threaten the livelihood of an entire organization.

Does the City really want me to report?

We certainly do. In fact, we *need* you to report. If you have initial knowledge of an activity that may be cause for concern, your reporting can minimize the potential negative impact on the City and our people. Also, offering positive input may help identify issues that can improve organizational culture and performance.

Where do these reports go? Who can access them?

Reports are entered directly on the EthicsPoint secure server to prevent any possible breach in security. EthicsPoint makes these reports available only to specific individuals within the City who are charged with evaluating the report, based on the type of violation and location of the incident. Each of these report recipients has had training in keeping these reports in the utmost confidence.

Isn't this system just an example of someone watching over City Employees?

The EthicsPoint system concentrates on being a positive aspect of our overall philosophy, and allows us to assure a safe, secure, and ethical organization. Employees are encouraged to seek guidance on ethical dilemmas, provide positive suggestions, or communicate a concern. Effective communication is critical, and this is a great tool to enhance that communication.

We have carefully chosen the best reporting tool to meet our compliance obligations while maintaining a positive reporting environment.

Reporting Security & Confidentiality

Is it possible for my computer or device to be tracked back to me so you know I am the one who submitted the report?

EthicsPoint does not generate or maintain any internal connection logs with IP addresses, so no information linking your computer or device to EthicsPoint is available. In fact, EthicsPoint is contractually committed not to pursue a reporter's identity.

If you feel uncomfortable making a report on your personal device, you have the option of using a non-personal device (such as one located at an Internet café, at a library, etc.) through the EthicsPoint secure website.

Can I file a report from home and still remain anonymous?

A report from home, a neighbor's computer, or any Internet portal will remain secure and anonymous. An Internet portal never identifies a visitor by screen name and the EthicsPoint system strips away Internet addresses so that anonymity is totally maintained. Plus, EthicsPoint is contractually committed not to pursue a reporter's identity.

I am concerned that the information I provide EthicsPoint will ultimately reveal my identity. How can you assure me that will not happen?

The EthicsPoint system is designed to protect your anonymity. However, if you wish to remain anonymous, you - as a reporting party - need to ensure that the body of the report does not reveal your identity by accident. For example, "From my cube next to Jan Smith..." or "my neighbor at ...".

Is the telephone toll-free hot line confidential and anonymous too?

Yes. You will be asked to provide the same information that you would provide in an Internet-based report and an interviewer will type your responses into the EthicsPoint Web site. These reports have the same security and confidentiality measures applied to them during delivery.

What if I want to be identified with my report?

There is a section in the report for identifying yourself, if you wish.

Tips & Best Practices

I am aware of some individuals involved with unethical conduct, but it doesn't affect me. Why should I bother reporting it?

The City of Olathe chooses to promote ethical behavior. All unethical conduct, at any level, ultimately hurts the City and residents, including you. You only have to consider what happened in recent scandals to see the disastrous effects that a seemingly harmless lapse in ethics can have on an otherwise healthy City. So, if you know of any incidents of misconduct or ethical violations, consider it your duty to yourself and the City to report it.

I am not sure if what I have observed or heard is a violation of City policy, or involves unethical conduct, but it just does not look right to me. What should I do?

File a report. EthicsPoint can help you prepare and file your report so it can be properly understood. We'd rather you report a situation that turns out to be harmless than let possible unethical behavior go unchecked because you weren't sure.

What if senior level staff or other managers are involved in a violation? Won't they get the report and start a cover-up?

The EthicsPoint system and report distribution are designed so that implicated parties are not notified or granted access to reports in which they have been named.

What if I remember something important about the incident after I file the report? Or what if the City has further questions for me concerning my report?

When you file a report at the EthicsPoint Web site or through the EthicsPoint Call Center, you receive a unique username and are asked to choose a password. You can return to the EthicsPoint system again either by Internet or telephone and access the original report to add more detail or answer questions posed by a City representative and add further information that will help resolve open issues. We strongly suggest that you return to the site in the time specified to answer City questions. You and the City now have entered into an "anonymous dialogue," where situations are not only identified, but can also be resolved, no matter how complex.

Are these follow-ups on reports as secure as the first one?

All EthicsPoint correspondences are held in the same strict confidence as the initial report, continuing under the umbrella of anonymity.

Can I still file a report if I don't have access to the Internet?

You can file an EthicsPoint report from any computer that can access the Internet. You can file from home. Many public locations, including the public library, have Internet computers. If you don't have access to or are uncomfortable using a computer, you can call the EthicsPoint toll-free hotline, which is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.