Fraud Awareness: How to Take Action

Fraud is a pervasive issue that impacts many organizations, including USF. According to the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, it is estimated that organizations lose 5% of revenue to fraud each year, which is more than $5 trillion globally! As a USF employee, you play a crucial role in recognizing and reporting potential fraud. In fact, more frauds are uncovered through tips than through any other method.

The Q&As below contain additional information about reporting suspected fraud.

What is fraud?

- Fraud is the intentional use of deception for personal gain or to harm others, often achieved by misrepresenting facts or concealing information.

Am I required to report suspected fraud?

- Per USF Regulation 5.001, USF employees are required to immediately report suspected or observed wasteful, fraudulent, or dishonest acts.

What if I'm concerned about retaliation for reporting fraud?

- USF Policy 0-020 prohibits retaliation against employees who report in good faith.

Will my report be anonymous?

- You can report anonymously through EthicsPoint, a third party. The Office of Internal Audit can communicate with anonymous reporters via EthicsPoint.

Does USF take action against employees who commit fraud?

- USF has zero tolerance for unethical or fraudulent activity and will take disciplinary action up to and including dismissal and civil and criminal prosecution.

Should I investigate suspected fraud myself before I report it?

- To protect evidence and avoid legal issues, do not attempt to investigate fraud before reporting.

Where can I find more information?

- USF Regulation 5.001: Fraud Prevention and Financial Detection
- USF Office of Internal Audit website: https://www.usf.edu/audit/

How can I report potential fraud or abuse?

- Notify your supervisor
- Contact the USF Office of Internal Audit at (813) 974-2705
- Report activities anonymously through the EthicsPoint hotline at (866) 974-8411