

Title IV Fraud

14.1 Student or Parent Fraud

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Student or Parent Fraud

There are difficult situations where students and/or parents purposefully misrepresent information in hopes of obtaining additional assistance. The FAO is required to have a policy of referral when confronted with actual or suspected cases of fraud and abuse. Fraudulent situations should be reported to the hotline of the US Department of Education Inspector General at **(202) 755-2270 or 1-800-MIS-USED**.

Policy for Student or Parent Fraud

Students and parents who willfully submit fraudulent information will be investigated to the furthest extent possible. All cases of fraud and abuse will be reported to the proper authorities. Examples of financial aid fraud include, but are not limited to:

- Falsified documents or forged signatures on an institutional application, documents submitted for verification of information on the application, or loan promissory notes
- False statements of income
- False statements of citizenship
- Use of false or fictitious names or aliases, addresses, or Social Security Numbers, including deliberate use of multiple Social Security Numbers
- False claims of independent status
- Patterns of misreported information from one year to the next

Procedure for Student or Parent Fraud

If, in a financial aid staff member's judgment, there has been intentional misrepresentation, false statements, or alteration of documents which have resulted or could result in the awarding or disbursement of funds for which the student is not eligible, the case shall be referred to the Director for possible disciplinary action. After investigating the situation, if the Director believes there is a fraudulent situation, all information must be forwarded to the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs, Office of the President, University Legal Consul, and the Office of Inspector General of the US Department of Education or the local law enforcement agency.

The Director reviews the student's aid file with the appropriate financial aid staff member and if the decision is made by the Director to pursue the possibility of denying or canceling financial aid, a written request to make an appointment is sent to the student via registered mail. If the student does not make an appointment, the Director may:

- Not process a financial aid application until the situation is resolved satisfactorily;
- Not award financial aid;
- Cancel financial aid;
- Determine that financial aid will not be processed for future years.

All processing of the application or disbursement of funds shall be suspended until the Director has made a determination as to whether the student shall be required to make an appointment.

Referrals

If TFC suspects that a student, employee, or other individual has misreported information and/or altered documentation to increase student aid eligibility or to fraudulently obtain federal funds, we will report those suspicions and provide any evidence to ED's Office of Inspector General (OIG). The Director of Financial Aid has the authority to make referrals to the OIG regarding Title IV fraud.

The OIG Web site at www.ed.gov/offices/OIG allows TFC to:

- Complete a special complaint form on-line
- Call the toll free number (1-800-MIS-USED)
- Call an OIG office in our area (a list of offices and telephone numbers are provided)