

Whistleblower Protection Policy

Northwest Illinois Economic Development, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation (hereinafter “NWILED”), requires its directors, officers and employees to observe high standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities. As employees and representatives of NWILED, we must practice honesty and integrity in fulfilling our responsibilities and comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

Reporting Responsibility

This Whistleblower Policy is intended to encourage and enable employees and others to raise serious concerns internally so that NWILED can address and correct inappropriate conduct and actions. It is the responsibility of all board members, officers, employees and volunteers to report concerns about violations of NWILED’s code of ethics or suspected violations of law or regulations that govern NWILED’s operations.

No Retaliation

It is contrary to the values of NWILED for anyone to retaliate against any board member, officer, employee or volunteer who in good faith reports an ethics violation, or a suspected violation of law, such as a complaint of discrimination, or suspected fraud, or suspected violation of any regulation governing the operations of NWILED. An employee who retaliates against someone who has reported a violation in good faith is subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment.

Reporting Procedure

NWILED has an open-door policy and suggests that employees share their questions, concerns, suggestions or complaints with their supervisor. If you are not comfortable speaking with our supervisor or you are not satisfied with your supervisor’s response, you are encouraged to speak with a board member. Supervisors and managers are required to report complaints or concerns about suspected ethical and legal violations in writing to the NWILED’s Compliance Officer or designated employee or board member, who has the responsibility to investigate all reported complaints. Employees with concerns or complaints may also submit their concerns in writing directly to their supervisor or the Regional Director or the organization’s Compliance Officer.

Compliance Officer

NWILED’s Compliance Officer is responsible for ensuring that all complaints about unethical or illegal conduct are investigated and resolved. The Compliance Officer will advise the Regional Director and/or the Board of Directors of all complaints and their resolutions and will report at least annually to the Treasurer on compliance activity relating to accounting or alleged financial improprieties.

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Accounting and Auditing Matters

NWILED's Compliance Officer shall immediately notify the Treasurer of any concerns or complaint regarding corporate accounting practices, internal controls or auditing and work with the committee until the matter is resolved.

Acting in Good Faith

Anyone filing a written complaint concerning a violation or suspected violation must be acting in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the information disclosed indicates a violation. Any allegations that prove not to be substantiated and which prove to have been made maliciously or knowingly to be false will be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense.

Confidentiality

Violations or suspected violations may be submitted on a confidential basis by the complainant. Reports of violations or suspected violations will be kept confidential to the extent possible, consistent with the need to conduct an adequate investigation.

Handling of Reported Violations

The NWILED's Compliance Officer will notify the person who submitted a complaint and acknowledge receipt of the reported violation or suspected violation. All reports will be promptly investigated, and appropriate corrective action will be taken if warranted by the investigation.

Compliance Officer:

Name: Chelsea Beyer Chelsea Beyer

Title/Organization: Director

Contact information: cbeyer@dupaco.com

Policy approved by the Board of Directors on April 8, 2026.

Chelsea Beyer
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