

Government Funded Programs and False Claims

Contact from Federal Agencies

MODULE 2



Texas Health
Resources

Healing Hands. Caring Hearts.™

About this Module

Purpose: Be familiar with steps to take if contacted by a government agent for a non-routine matter.

Time: 10 minutes

Objective:

- Describe how to react to government inquiries, reviews or probes.

Handling Routine Matters

Visits by agents may involve routine or non-routine matters. For example...

Routine: Regulatory audits

Non-Routine: Unannounced visit by F.B.I. agent

Routine audits, surveys or reviews should be handled as a part of the department's or entity's daily work process. If in doubt, ask your supervisor.

To learn about handling non-routine matters, click [Next](#).

Handling Non-Routine Matters

In a non-routine investigation, agents may contact you at work or at home.

Being contacted at work means agents are looking for specific data at a Texas Health business location.

Usually, **being contacted at home** means agents do not have firm data about wrongdoing. They are looking for leads or data to strengthen a case.

Responding to Government Inquiries

- If a government agent arrives unannounced...
- **Ask for identification.** Be cautious of letting anyone (even with a badge) into your home.
- **Contact Texas Health's Legal Services** prior to discussions with any government agent or representative.

Phone Number

682 - 236 - 7141

After Hours Phone Number

**214 - 345 - 8480 or
817 - 882 - 2000**

- **Cooperate.** It is Texas Health's policy to cooperate with investigations. NEVER alter, remove or destroy data.

How Agents Operate



- When you are approached at home, agents may try to get information from you by:
 - Flashing a badge or official business card.
 - Requesting you “not tell anyone of their visit.”
 - Making you feel like there is “no choice” but to speak with the agent.
- Remember, they are almost always on a fishing expedition.

Do you know your rights? Click NEXT to learn more.

Know Your Rights

An interview with an agent is voluntary.

If you choose to speak, remember...

- **You have the right to contact a lawyer through Texas Health's Legal Services or an attorney of your choice.**
- **You have the right to be contacted during normal business hours at work.**
- **You may stop the visit at any point.**
- **Giving information or speaking without the advice of legal counsel could leave you at risk. Comments could be used against you.**

Summary



- Discussed how to respond to government inquiries:
 - Ask for identification.
 - Call Texas Health's Legal Services.
 - Cooperate.
- Differentiated between routine and non-routine investigations.
- Discussed your legal rights.

SELF-CHECK:

Repeat this module if you are unsure of any of the above.