

What if you are questioned by an OIG agent or Postal Inspector?

There has been an increase in OIG investigations as the Postal Service tries to find any possible revenue deficiency and recapture those funds. “Unfortunately the Postal Service of 2010 is not really as interested in correcting your behavior as they are in creating vacancies.” This quote from Attorney John DiFalco has been proven to me over and over again this year as I hear about the **overly harsh** actions taken against Postmasters. Instead of allowing Postmasters a chance to make corrections when audits find discrepancies, discipline is issued. As Postmaster duties and expectations keep increasing and training is practically non-existent, it is important that you know what to do if you find yourself the subject of an investigation.

If you are ever questioned by an OIG agent or Postal Inspector about **YOUR** conduct, even if you believe you are not guilty of any wrongdoing, you should do the following:

1. Remain Calm.
2. Correctly identify yourself if asked.
3. Do not refuse to cooperate, but do not answer anything that you do not understand or any leading questions implying your guilt. (Remember, anything you say can and will be used against you in an adverse action.
4. Do not complete or sign a written statement under any circumstances.
5. Do not physically resist arrest or a search of your person or property.
6. Remain silent until you have consulted your LEAGUE Adverse Action Counselor or an attorney.
7. Do not take a polygraph (lie detector) test. You may be the type of person who does not get an accurate reading, and an inaccurate reading could lead to false assumptions of guilt. Politely decline to take the test, based on the fact that polygraphs are inherently unreliable.
8. Read aloud the following statement, which you should clip out and keep in your wallet.

Statement to read to an OIG agent or Postal Inspector

I request to talk to my LEAGUE Adverse Action Counselor before answering any additional questions. If I am a suspect in a criminal matter, please so advise me. If so I wish to contact an attorney.

If I am under arrest, I request you so advise me and inform me of the reason or reasons.

I will not resist arrest.

I do not consent to a search of my person or property. However, I will not physically resist or obstruct such a search. If you have a search warrant, I request to see it at this time.

I will cooperate with you fully, but I do not waive any of my rights, including the right to remain silent. I will not sign a waiver-of-rights form, nor admit or deny any allegations, nor make any written or oral statement unless my attorney and/or League Adverse Action Counselor are personally present and so advise me.

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