

# About the Office of Inspector General

The office's mission is to strengthen Texas Health and Human Services' capacity to combat fraud, waste and abuse in publicly funded, state-run health and human services programs.



## Contact Us

**Main number:**  
512-491-2000

**Fraud hotline:**  
800-436-6184

**211 Texas:** Dial 2-1-1, select your language, then choose Option 3.

**Website:** [oig.hhsc.texas.gov](http://oig.hhsc.texas.gov)

**Facebook:**  
[facebook.com/TxOIG](https://facebook.com/TxOIG)

**Twitter:**  
[twitter.com/TexasOIG](https://twitter.com/TexasOIG)

### Our values are:

- **Accountability:** We serve Texans and take responsibility for our decisions and actions.
- **Integrity:** We demonstrate honesty and credibility.
- **Collaboration:** We work collectively to multiply our contributions and create shared goals, leading to greater success.
- **Excellence:** We strive to be and do our best.



# Inspector General

Texas Health and Human Services



## Illegal Dental Solicitation

What dental providers need to know to avoid illegally soliciting clients who have Medicaid.

## Fighting Fraud, Waste and Abuse

The OIG enforces Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §371.1669, which prohibits a person from offering any payment that may influence a potential client's selection of a Medicaid service provider.

If a provider solicits Medicaid clients, the provider may be found guilty of a Class A misdemeanor and a third degree felony if the dentist was previously convicted of illegal dental solicitation or was employed by the federal, state or local government at the time. The provider may be subject to disciplinary action by the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners, an injunction, civil penalties of up to \$10,000 and possible exclusion as a provider.\*

## Illegal Dental Solicitation

Dental providers are prohibited from offering cash, gifts or other items to people who have Medicaid in order to influence their health care decisions. Providers may not offer and clients may not accept:

- Cash, cash equivalents or gift cards in any amount.
- Transportation unless it's properly arranged through the Medicaid Transportation Program.
- Free or discounted services for a family member to influence their health care decisions.

Providing goods or services of any value could be considered a violation, but that would typically not be the case for non-cash, low-cost items such as a toothbrush valued less than \$10.

## Office of Inspector General Investigations

The OIG may investigate improper gifts to potential clients, including providers who hire people to canvass neighborhoods looking for Medicaid-eligible children and pay drivers to transport children for Medicaid services. The OIG may also investigate providers who advertise free transportation on their website.

*This material is provided for general informational purposes only and is not intended to present an official position of the OIG or legal advice. The facts and circumstances of any particular question should be evaluated independently.*

*\*Texas Occupations Code, Sec. 102.001, 102.009, 102.010*



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