



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

April 28, 2020

Mr. Gary Cox
Oklahoma Commissioner of Health
Oklahoma State Department of Health
1000 NE 10th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73117

Re: Oklahoma State Department of Health audit

Dear Commissioner Cox:

Pursuant to 74 O.S. § 18f, the Attorney General has requested the State Auditor & Inspector conduct an investigative audit of the Oklahoma State Department of Health ("OSDH"). The State Auditor & Inspector has the power and authority to examine records of the OSDH for the audit.

Refusal of access to records, obstruction of access to records, refusal to search for required information or any other effort to hinder the examination of the State Auditor & Inspector is prohibited. As it is reasonably foreseeable that the records examined may be evidence in future proceedings, you should take immediate action to preserve any items—including but not limited to electronically stored information—germane to this inquiry. The neglectful or willful destruction of evidence is sanctionable.

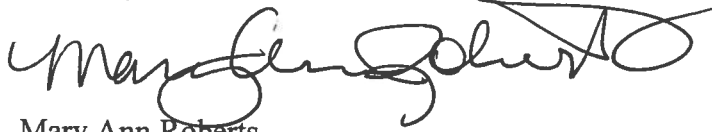
As the State Auditor & Inspector investigates, it is important to be aware that Oklahoma's Whistleblower Act provides protection to employees reporting wrongful governmental activities. Pursuant to 74 O.S. § 840-2.5(B), no officer or employee of any state agency shall prohibit or take disciplinary action against its employees for:

1. Disclosing public information to correct what the employee reasonably believes evidences a violation of the Oklahoma Constitution or law or a rule promulgated pursuant to law;
2. Reporting a violation of the Oklahoma Constitution, state or federal law, rule or policy; mismanagement; a gross waste of public funds; an abuse of authority; or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety;
3. Discussing the operations and functions of the agency, either specifically or generally, with the Governor, members of the Legislature, the print or electronic media or other persons in a position to investigate or initiate corrective action; or

4. Taking any of the above actions without giving prior notice to the employee's supervisor or anyone else in the employee's chain of command.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Ann Roberts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mary Ann Roberts
Chief Deputy Attorney General

c: Secretary Jerome Loughridge
Deputy Executive Director Gino DeMarco
Executive Director Steven Harpe



MIKE HUNTER
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 28, 2020

The Honorable Cindy Byrd
State Auditor and Inspector
123 State Capitol Building
2300 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Re: Oklahoma State Department of Health audit

Dear Ms. Byrd:

As stated in 74 O.S. § 18b(A)(9), one of the duties of the Attorney General as the chief law officer of the state is to enforce the proper application of monies appropriated by the Legislature and to prosecute breaches of trust in the administration of such funds. To that end and pursuant to 74 O.S. § 18f, this letter is a formal request of your office to conduct an investigative audit of the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hunter".

Mike Hunter
Attorney General