



Administrative Closure
Alleged Nepotism and Preferential Treatment
North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System (573/00)
Gainesville, Florida
MCI #2013-01877-HI-0407

The VA Office of Inspector General Office of Healthcare Inspections received allegations from an anonymous complainant regarding nepotism and preferential treatment at the (b)(6) at North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System in Gainesville, Florida. The Office of Investigations reviewed and declined to pursue the case.

The complainant alleged that the (b)(6):

1. Gave preferential treatment to (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6) procedures although two other VA providers are qualified to perform the procedure.
2. Allowed (b)(6) to drive a VA vehicle on days (b)(6) worked for the VA as a contractor.
3. Was allowed to declare a full tour of duty when attending training at the University while others are forced to use annual leave
4. Underutilized staff causing long patient appointment wait times.

We found merit in three of the four allegations. We found that (b)(6) appropriately used the VA vehicle as a VA employee. During the course of this inspection, both the (b)(6) and (b)(6) terminated their employment with the VA medical system.

The facility leadership could not say when they became aware of (b)(6), but they did conduct personnel actions after our review was initiated. An Administrative Investigative Board found that the (b)(6) failed to record personal time when taking a personal education course instead of VA time. This circumstance was mitigated by the Chief of Staff's previous approval of the (b)(6)'s actions. The preferential treatment involved allowing (b)(6) to perform a lighter patient workload when the

clinic was experiencing large delays in access to care. The facility found that clinic staff, including the (b)(6) s time, was not being effectively managed and had initiated a (b)(6) prior to the (b)(6) resigning.

As (b)(6) are no longer employed by the VA, I am administratively closing this case.



JOHN D. DAIGH, JR., M.D.
Assistant Inspector General for
Healthcare Inspections

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