



# MBE-TIPS Fraud Hotline

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Overview

The Ohio Department of Development, Minority Business Development Division (MBDD) maintains a hotline for receiving allegations of fraudulent or misrepresentation in the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE); Encouraging Diversity, Growth, and Equity (EDGE); Women-owned Business Enterprise (WBE); or Veteran-Friendly Business Enterprise (VBE) programs. Anyone who suspects a business certified through one of these programs – or an applicant seeking certification – appears to be engaged in fraudulent or misrepresentation may file an allegation.

### How and when can I report allegations of fraud or misconduct?

Allegations may be reported by contacting:

**1-888-623-8477 (MBE-TIPS)**

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### What types of information will I need when I call?

When calling, please provide any known relevant and specific details of the following:

- Name of the individual or company alleged to have attempted or engaged in misconduct.
- Detailed description of the alleged misconduct.
- The program (MBE, EDGE, WBE, VBE) affected by the alleged misconduct.
- Date(s) of alleged misconduct.
- Contract numbers (if known).
- How you are aware of the alleged misconduct.
- The identity of anyone who can corroborate the allegations.
- The location of any supporting documentation.

### What types of issues should be reported?

- Contract fraud (e.g., front or pass-through businesses).
- False statements and/or false claims.

### Will you accept anonymous allegations?

Yes, you may remain anonymous. However, MBDD encourages you to consider identifying yourself in the event additional questions arise as we evaluate your allegations. Please consider providing your name and contact information to allow for follow-up contact if needed. In many cases, our inability to reach you may prevent a comprehensive review of your complaint.

If you do choose to remain anonymous, simply state your intention when you call the hotline and are prompted to provide your name.

**When will the investigation begin and how long will the investigation take?**

We cannot provide a timeline for investigations but please know that we take every allegation seriously and will review them as quickly and thoroughly as possible.

**How are complaints processed?**

MBDD will conduct a review and may or may not open an investigation depending on the details of each allegation received. It is possible some allegations may be referred to another State agency for review and action.

**Can I receive a copy of the investigation findings?**

Yes, you may receive a copy of the final findings of an investigation if you provide us with your contact information.