

# PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INSPECTIONS



Ensuring that Environmental Health Inspectors follow clear ethical and legal guidelines is essential for maintaining the integrity of inspection programs. Los Angeles County Environmental Health has established specific standards for this purpose.

## REGISTERED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST OATH



All Registered Environmental Health Specialists in Los Angeles County pledge to uphold integrity, respect, and accountability while protecting public health through ethical inspections. Ongoing training supports adherence to this code of ethics.

## BUSINESS PRACTICES

- Inspectors must undergo several months of classroom and field training covering various topics to ensure public safety, including professional ethics.
- Health inspectors in California are required to pass a State Exam to obtain Registration.
  - **Questions about Ethical Practices are included in the exam**
- The State Registration Program has the authority to investigate complaints against inspectors related to contractual, technical, safety, and fraud issues during environmental activities.
  - Noncompliance may lead to disciplinary actions, including suspension or revocation of State Registration Status.
  - Inspection guides by government agencies are standardized tools for Environmental Health Inspectors to ensure consistent practices across industries.
    - They offer a template for inspections, helping identify violations and determine appropriate actions.
    - Inspection guides and reports can be accessed online at [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh).
  - Inspection reports are audited and reviewed on a regular basis by the Environmental Health Division's **compliance office** to ensure that Inspectors follow guidelines.



## QUALITY ASSURANCE (OMBUDSMAN)

The Environmental Health Quality Assurance (QA) Team promotes ethical practices by enforcing policies and investigating concerns about inspection processes and inspector conduct. Information is shared with the **Division's Ombudsman** for further action.



Concerns can be reported without fear of retaliation at **(626) 430-5172**.

## REPORT FRAUD

It is illegal for County Officials to solicit bribes, gifts, or gratuities while performing their duties. To report behavior to the **Fraud Hotline** call **(800) 544-6861** or visit **[www.lacountyfraud.org](http://www.lacountyfraud.org)**, with the option for anonymity.



All Inspection Reports contain a section addressing the solicitation of bribes, gifts, and gratuities.

## IMPERSONATING A HEALTH INSPECTOR



It is also illegal for someone to impersonate a Health Inspector. If you believe someone is impersonating a Health Inspector, immediately contact your **local law enforcement**.

To verify if someone is an Environmental Health Inspector, contact our QA Team at **DPH-EHQA@ph.lacounty.gov** or call **(626) 430-5300**.