

# The University of Wisconsin System

## UPS OPERATIONAL POLICY: GEN 6



**SUBJECT:** Whistleblower Law

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**Original Issuance Date:** July 1, 2015

**Last Revision Date:**

### 1. POLICY PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to provide UW System institutions with information on Whistleblower Law contained in [Wis. Stat. Chapter 230](#).

### 2. POLICY BACKGROUND:

Four subchapters make up [Wis. Stat. Chapter 230](#). Subchapters I and II no longer apply to UW System employees. Subchapters III (Employee Protection) and IV (Employee Freedom of Speech Protection) continue to apply to UW System employees because UW System institution employees remain employees of governmental units within the meaning of Subchapters III and IV of Chapter 230.

Under Subchapter III ([Wis. Stat. § 230.80 et seq.](#)), UW System employees, and other state employees, except for the exceptions that are listed in [Wis. Stat. § 230.80\(3\)](#) and [§ 36.115\(3m\)\(ae\) to \(f\)](#), may not be retaliated against for disclosing information regarding a violation of any state or federal law, rule or regulation, mismanagement or abuse of authority in state or local government, substantial waste of public funds, or a danger to public health or safety. An employee may disclose information to any other person. However, before disclosing information to anyone other than an attorney, collective bargaining representative, or legislature, the employee must disclose the information in writing to the employee's supervisor, or disclose the information in writing to an appropriate governmental unit designated by the Equal Rights Division, a division of the state Department of Workforce Development.

Effective July 1, 2015, the development of new personnel systems for UW-Madison and for the balance of UW System institutions does not affect the protections provided by [Subchapter III of Chapter 230](#) (Employee Protection) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

### 3. POLICY DEFINITIONS:

Please see UPS Operational Policy [GEN 0: General Terms and Definitions](#) for a list of general terms and definitions.

### 4. POLICY:

The development of new personnel systems for UW-Madison and for the balance of UW System institutions does not affect the protections provided by [Subchapter III of Chapter 230](#) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

**5. RELATED DOCUMENTS:**

[Wis. Stat. Chapter 230, Subchapter IV](#), Employee Freedom of Speech Protection

**6. POLICY HISTORY:**