

# 10 whistleblower tips for nurses



Professional Nursing and Health Care Council

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**WSNA** WASHINGTON  
STATE **NURSES**  
ASSOCIATION

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[wsna.org](http://wsna.org)

- 1. DOCUMENT.** Write down your observations as soon as possible.

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- 2. BE OBJECTIVE.** Don't let emotions cloud your judgment.

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- 3. COLLECT THE FACTS.** Whistleblowing is very serious. Make sure facts are accurate.

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- 4. BE AWARE.** Individuals engaging in unethical or illegal matters may not be helpful.

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- 5. REMAIN CALM.** Think through your actions before you take them.

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- 6. GET ADVICE.** Seek counsel from someone you trust outside the situation.

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- 7. EDUCATE YOURSELF.** Consult your nurse's association and seek legal counsel if needed.

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- 8. DON'T DELAY.** Whistleblower laws don't protect you until you blow the whistle.

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- 9. KEEP COPIES.** Make copies of your documentation and your complaints.

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- 10. REPORT.** Report to a state or national regulator. It is best practice to put your complaint in writing. Go to [www.wsna.org/whistleblower](http://www.wsna.org/whistleblower) for reporting contact information.