



Investigative Summary: Misuse of GPO Government Vehicle

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The U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO), Office of the Inspector General (OIG), completed an investigation into the misuse of an official GPO vehicle. The investigation was a product of a larger proactive investigative initiative that focused on analyzing vehicle history data. As a result, we identified a GPO vehicle with unexplained travel and were able to isolate the vehicle use to a single GPO employee. The investigation substantiated multiple incidents of vehicle misuse over multiple years and concluded that the employee violated Title 31 U.S.C. § 1344 – Passenger Carrier Use.¹

This matter was not referred to the U.S. Attorney’s Office for consideration. GPO OIG notified GPO leadership of this investigation and its results.

¹ Title 31 U.S.C. § 1344 – Passenger Carrier Use. Federal law prohibits use of government vehicles for personal purposes, such as traveling between work and home. 31 U.S.C. § 1344; U.S. Gov’t Accountability Office, B-333508, Sept. 7, 2023. The Government Accountability has opined that the specific statute addressing personal use of vehicles, 31 U.S.C. § 1344, does not extend to Legislative Branch agencies such as GPO, but GPO policies reflect the application of the misuse standard to GPO employees. See GPO Directive 655.3C, Standards of Conduct for Government Publishing Office Officers and Employees (March 20, 2024). Additionally, the restriction on personal use of government vehicles applies to GPO through the Purpose Statute, 31 U.S.C. § 1301(a). B-335508; U.S. Gov’t Accountability Office, B-305864, Jan. 5, 2006. The Purpose Statute prohibits the use of appropriated funds for other than the purposes intended by Congress. This standard has long been applied to limit the use of appropriated funds for personal benefit, including personal use of government vehicles. See B-335508; B-305864 (recognizing that “section 1344, its legislative history, and case law applying it offer a useful analytical construct” for Legislative Branch agencies).