

Summary: Investigation of Illegal Gambling by FWS Special Agent

Report Date: December 15, 2015

OIG investigated an anonymous complaint alleging that a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) special agent engaged in illegal gambling at a private residence in Frederick, MD, while wearing his FWS firearm and badge.

During our investigation, the special agent admitted that he had played poker for money at two private residences in Maryland—a violation of Maryland Criminal Code 12-102. The special agent said, however, that he did not believe his actions were illegal. He also said that he always wore his FWS firearm and badge, but that he kept both concealed under plain clothes in accordance with FWS policy for off-duty carry.

We discussed our findings and the violation of Maryland Criminal Code 12-102 with the State Attorney's Office for Frederick County, MD, and the Frederick County Sheriff's Office. Neither office was interested in pursuing the violation of State law.

We provided our report to the FWS Director for review and action because the violation of Maryland Criminal Code was also a violation of the FWS Law Enforcement Rules of Conduct.

This is a summary of an investigative report that was issued internally to the U.S. Department of the Interior. This summary was posted to the web on February 2, 2016.

