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IN THE KNOW



THE GREY AREA: BRIBERY AND KICKBACKS

Scenario:

Mohammed has been employed in the buying department for a large manufacturing organization for many years. He deals with many suppliers on a frequent basis. A new supplier James has been contacting Mohammed on a frequent basis for business. James is trying to get himself onto the books so that he could supply his goods and equipment to this organization.

One day James offers Mohammed an all expense holiday to Mauritius, if Mohammed can assist him with adding him as a preferred supplier. Mohammed knows that this is referred to as a kickback and bribery but the all-expenses paid trip to Mauritius is really swaying him. Mohammed then signs up James as a preferred supplier, and offers James a large tender as per his request in favour for the Mauritius holiday.

Thandi the administrator that assists Mohammed in the office, overhears the conversation and notices that Mohammed signs James up as a supplier. Thandi is nervous and is too afraid to report it directly to her manager, as **she does not want to lose her job or be victimized** by Mohammed.

She notices a poster on the notice board regarding Tip-offs Anonymous whereby fraud, theft and corruption can be reported anonymously. She then sends an email from home, as she does not want her email to be traced via the company server.

She includes as much information as possible regarding the unethical activity. The Contact Centre agent cannot see the recipient's details and Thandi remains anonymous.

The Investigation:

It was wrong of Mohammed to accept a kickback from James. **Thandi's strong moral behavior was an excellent show of bravery** by reporting the unethical behavior to Tip-offs Anonymous.

The contact centre agent will then type out the report and strip it of anything pertaining to Thandi's identity. The report is then sent to the organizations senior management within 24 hours or sooner. The company will investigate the case further. Tip-offs Anonymous do not get involved with the investigation at all. The investigation may take weeks, months or even years to be resolved. Every tip-off is key in solving a case. Bribery and kickbacks affect healthy business. It is also against company rules and regulations.

Be Aware:

- Of bribery and kickbacks in the workplace
- Collusion between suppliers and internal employees
- Fraud and corruption can cripple an organisation. 33% of companies crumble because of fraud and theft.
- Report it!

Tip-offs contact details:

FreeCall: 0800 077 078
E-mail: saipa@tip-offs.com
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