



Research Compliance Policy

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION : Legal, Ethics & Compliance

INTRODUCTION

From time to time, Booz Allen conducts research on behalf of our clients or as part of internal research and development efforts. Booz Allen is committed to the ethical conduct of research, the protection of the rights and interests of human participants, and compliance with applicable laws on research misconduct.

The purpose of this policy is to establish principles and procedures for Booz Allen people to follow when engaged in Human Subjects Research (“HSR”), to identify and disclose financial conflicts of interests when Booz Allen people participate in research funded by the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) or the National Science Foundation (NSF), and to define the standards for prevention, detection, and investigation of Research Misconduct.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all employees, officers, directors, subsidiaries, and affiliates of the company (referred to as “Booz Allen people”).

POLICY

Booz Allen people must follow the rules outlined in this policy when engaging in research activities funded by the United States government or participating in HSR regardless of funding source (including federal or a state government, a private party, or Booz Allen itself) to ensure adherence to basic scientific, ethical and regulatory principles.

Human Subjects Research (HSR)

Human Subjects Research is a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge, which involves 1) data obtained from intervention or interaction with a human subject, or 2) identifiable private information about a human subject. HSR activities include but are not limited to: research design; interventional studies; observational studies; surveys; focus group; questionnaires; data analysis; chart or medical record reviews; and manuscript preparation.

Booz Allen people may not engage in federally-funded HSR unless and until the HSR activity has been submitted to, reviewed and approved by Legal, Ethics & Compliance (LEC), and if required, by Booz Allen’s Institutional Official (IO) and a qualified Institutional Review Board (IRB). If an unfunded project may be federally-funded at future stages, or if Booz Allen intends to publish the results of non-federally-funded work, these opportunities must also be pre-approved. The HSR Review Process provides the instructions to initiate the internal review process for HSR activities. Legal, Ethics & Compliance will make the determination of whether a project meets the definition of HSR.

LEC will provide guidance on Booz Allen’s Federal-wide Assurance (FWA) approved by the HHS Office of Human Subjects Protection and any applicable HSR regulatory actions or exemptions. During the performance of any project involving HSR, Booz Allen people and subcontractors must comply with the FWA, applicable regulations and ethical standards for the treatment of human subjects and any conditions imposed by the Institutional Official in connection with approving a submission of a request or proposal to perform HSR.

Research Conflicts of Interest

Prior to participating in any research funded by the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) or the National Science Foundation (NSF), Booz Allen people who are investigators must make certain disclosures of Financial Conflicts of Interests (FCOI) as set forth in the Research Conflicts of Interest Disclosure Process. This disclosure requirement promotes objectivity in research by establishing standards in accordance with applicable federal rules that provide a reasonable expectation that federally-funded research will be free of bias resulting from FCOIs.

An “Investigator” means the project director, or someone identified as the “principal investigator,” and any other person (including employees and subcontractor or consultant personnel), regardless of title or position, who is responsible for the design, conduct, or reporting of federally funded research. A “FCOI” is any significant financial interest of the Investigator and the Investigator's spouse and dependent children that could directly and significantly affect the design, conduct or reporting of PHS or NSF funded research, as reasonably determined by the company.

All FCOI reviews, including any required conflict management plan, must be completed before any research activity begins or research expenses are incurred under an award. LEC will review FCOI disclosures and provide guidance to implement a plan for the appropriate management of potential FCOIs. All FCOI disclosures and reviews, including any required conflict management plan, must be completed before any research activity begins or research expenses are incurred under an award. No Investigator having an FCOI may participate in research without prior written approval from LEC. If a FCOI cannot be appropriately reduced, eliminated or managed as determined by LEC, the research project will not be approved to proceed.

Research Misconduct

Booz Allen people engaged in any research are expected to observe the highest standards of honesty and professional conduct. The falsification of data, fabrication of data, and plagiarism represent acts of research misconduct and breaches of trust and professionalism. The company will investigate and respond to all allegations of research misconduct in accordance with applicable rules imposed by government funding sources. Booz Allen people who believe that an act of research misconduct has occurred (or who receive such reports) must promptly report the matter to the aligned Booz Allen project manager or any of the reporting channels listed below in this policy.

If the report is regarding classified information, it **MUST ALSO** be reported to Security Services, even if it was already reported to one of the points of contact listed above. Do not include the classified information in the report.

Required Training and Education

To ensure the safe, ethical, and compliant conduct of research, all Booz Allen people engaged in HSR and federally funded research must complete formal training and education in research protections and certify completion of this training as provided by the Research Training Guide. All Investigators (including subcontractor Investigators operating under Booz Allen's policy) participating in PHS-funded research projects must complete the required PHS Conflict of Interest training course offered at www.citiprogram.org.

REPORTING CONCERNS

Booz Allen maintains the highest standards of ethical behavior and integrity. Our policies, procedures, trainings, and communications form a robust Ethics & Compliance program, promoting a culture of integrity that shapes all facets of employee conduct.

Anyone can report an ethics concern to our Ethics HelpLine at +1-800-501-8755 (US) or +1-888-475-0009 (International) or Speakup.bah.com. Concerns may be raised anonymously.

We take all allegations of misconduct seriously, investigate them promptly, and strictly prohibit retaliation against any person who raises a good faith ethical or legal concern.