



This information is being provided to you by the Haines Borough. The Haines Borough is governed by the following Whistleblower Act.

## **The Alaska Whistleblower Act**

The Alaska Whistleblowers Act (AS 39.90.100 – 39.90.150) prohibits public employers from discharging, threatening, or other discriminating against employees for reporting matters of public concern to a public body. The whistleblower protection extends to those who participate in court actions, investigations, hearings, or inquiries on matters of public concern.

A “matter of public concern” means a violation of state, federal, or municipal law, regulation or ordinance; a danger to public health or safety; gross mismanagement, substantial waste of funds, or clear abuse of authority; a matter that the office of the ombudsman has accepted for investigation; or interference or failure to cooperate with the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee.

A “public body means an officer or agency of the federal government, the state, a political subdivision of the state, a public or quasi-public corporation or authority established by state law, or the University of Alaska. Consequently, whistleblower protection could apply to a state employee’s report to his or her own employer.

Whistleblower protection applies only when the reporting person reasonably believes that the information reported is or is about to become a matter of public concern and the person reports the matter in good faith. The protection does not apply if the matter of public concern is the result of the reporting person’s own conduct, unless the reporting person’s employer required that conduct.