

## **2.16 WHISTLEBLOWER**

Austin County complies with the Texas Government Code, section 554.002, whereby a state or local government entity may not suspend or terminate the employment of, or take other adverse personnel action against a public employee, who in good faith, reports a violation of the law by the employing governmental entity or another public employee to an appropriate law enforcement authority.

A report is made to an appropriate law enforcement authority if the authority is part of a state or local governmental entity or of the federal government that, the employee in good faith believes, is authorized to:

- regulate under or enforce the law alleged to be violated in the report; or
- investigate or prosecute a violation of criminal law.

Austin County employees are urged to report any violation of the law to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Austin County will not tolerate retaliation of any kind and in any manner.

Confidentiality will be maintained as much as possible regarding complaints of unlawful activities. However, absolute confidentiality cannot be promised as complaints may be disclosed during the course of the investigation, but only to those who need information to conduct an investigation and/or take corrective action.