

OPO Oversight Cases

Type of Wrongdoing	Description	Impact/Actions taken	Date	Location	OPO	Source/Press
Patient safety	Provided organs with wrong blood type to 17-year-old patient	Patient died. CMS wrote double checking blood types into conditions of coverage and conditions of participations. OPO still certified.	2003	Duke	Carolina Donor Services	CBS News
Finance	OIG found wasteful spending by Los Angeles OPO on things like football tickets and parade expenses	OPO created a foundation so they could use private donations to pay for future parade expenses. UNOS claimed they are not authorized to monitor wasteful spending in response to the Senate Finance Committee. OPO still certified.	2010	California	OneLegacy-Los Angeles OPO	Office of Inspector General
Finance	OIG found unallowable costs including "gourmet food and exotic drinks"	A report was sent to HHS. UNOS claimed they are not authorized to monitor wasteful spending in response to the Senate Finance Committee. OPO still certified.	2010	California	California Transplant Donor Network	Office of Inspector General
Corruption	Alabama Organ Center had scheme with funeral home and received kickbacks.	Executives were sent to prison. OPO still certified.	2012	Alabama	Alabama Organ Center; former director Demosthenes Lalisian and associate director Richard Alan	FBI Press Release
Corruption/Tissue	Investigation into Missouri OPO self-dealing, tissue conflicts of interest	None known. OPO still certified.	2012	Missouri	Mid-America Transplant Services	STL Today
Finance	HHS Office of Inspector General found OPO did not comply with reporting requirements.	A report was sent to HHS. OPO still certified.	2012	Arizona	Donor Network of Arizona	Office of Inspector General
Finance	OIG found "did not fully comply with Medicare requirements... on cost report"	UNOS says they do not do financial audits. OPO still certified.	2012	Washington	LifeCenter NW	Office of Inspector General
Finance	Investigative reporting found board members billing taxpayers for private planes	UNOS claimed they are not authorized to monitor wasteful spending in response to the Senate Finance Committee. OPO still certified.	2013	Ohio	Life Connection of Ohio	Trib Live
Finance	Investigative reporting found OPO paying family members of board and executives	UNOS claimed they are not authorized to monitor wasteful spending in response to the Senate Finance Committee. OPO still certified.	2013	Ohio	Life Connection of Ohio	Trib Live
Workplace Violence	OPO supervisor allegedly assaulted nurse and doctor for complaining about insufficient staffing and training	Nurse and doctor who spoke out were let go. One was fired and the other's contract was not renewed. The supervisor kept his position. The OPO was put designated Member Not In Good Standing by UNOS, but it's not disclosed whether the designation was due to this instance or another instance.	2015	South Florida	Life Alliance Organ Recovery Agency	Miami Herald
Patient Safety	Uterine transplant followed by life-threatening infection due to lack of reporting	UNOS investigated several months after the issue happened, following the media. CMS deferred to UNOS. OPO still certified.	2016	South Florida	Life Alliance Organ Recovery Agency	Washington Post
Consent	Misled a donor family and "took more tissue than what was authorized" according to a lawsuit	Family of donors took legal action. OPO still certified	2016	Nevada	Nevada Donor Network	Las Vegas Review-Journal
Operations	Investigative Reporting found OPO "particularly bad" at its job and "short-staffed at critical moments"	Federal officials tried to shut down the OPO in June. LiveOnNY appealed. OPO still certified.	2018	New York	LiveOnNY	Washington Post
Patient safety	OPO sent liver and lungs with wrong blood type. Lung patient died, and liver patient was injured.	Following news coverage, investigators found problems with OPO's blood-typing policies. OPO still certified.	2018	South Carolina	We are Sharing Hope SC	Post and Courier
Corruption/Tissue	OPO interfered with death investigations through improper tissue harvesting and then to have coordinated with coroners' offices to cover it up	None known. OPO still certified.	2019	California	OneLegacy-Los Angeles OPO	LA Times
Consent	OPO took someone's corneas without consent	Family of donor took legal action. Senate Finance Committee asked for further information regarding the case. OPO still certified	2019	Arizona	Donor Network of Arizona	ABC 15 Arizona

Complaint Type	Result	Result/Last Filing Date	OPO	Case No./Complaint/Date Filed
Health Care Fraud	Sentenced to Prison	8/2013	Alabama Organ Center	2:11-cr-00315-RDP, USA v. Lalian et. Al
Racial Discrimination - EEOC/Job	Voluntary Dismissal	9/2015	Arkansas Regional Organ Recovery Agency	4:15-cv-00127-SWW, Bowman v. ARORA- 3/2015
Job, Racial Discrimination	Judgment for Defendant	10/2017	Arkansas Regional Organ Recovery Agency	60CV-15-4995, Bowman v. ARORA - 12/2015
Theft - Felony Criminal	Sentenced to Prison	8/2018	Arkansas Regional Organ Recovery Agency	60CR-17-409, State v. Ruple,
FMLA - Jobs Discrimination	Settlement		Center for Organ Recovery Education	2:16-cv-01564-MPK Chaney v. Core - 4/2017
Civil Rights - Job	Settlement		Center for Organ Recovery Education	2:15-cv-00898-CRE, Biss v. CORE - 8/2016
American w/Disabilities - EEOC - Job Discrimination	Settlement	2/2015	Gift of Hope Illinois	1:14-cv-05219, Alexander v. Gift of Hope Illinois- 7/2014
American w/Disabilities - Job Discrimination	Confidential order	6/2019	Gift of Hope Illinois	1:18-cv-05216, Peplow v. Gift of Hope Illinois - 7/2018
Federal Fair Labor Standards - Job	Settlement	7/2017	Gift of Life Michigan	2:16-cv-11081-LJM, Robinson v. OPO-Mich. -3/2016
Federal Civil Rights violations - Job	Dismissed	12/2019	Gift of Life Michigan	2:18-cv-13733-LJM, Mavin v. Gift of Life Michigan - 11/2018
Federal Fair Labor Standards - Job	Settlement	4/2020	Gift of Life Michigan	2:19-cv-12690-GAD, Moldovan et al , v. OPO-Mich. -9/2019
FMLA- Job Discrimination	Settlement	3/2020	Gift of Life Michigan	3:19-cv-11574-RHC, Robinson v. OPO-Mich. - 5/2019
Federal Fair Labor Standards- Job	Summary judgment	10/2020	Gift of Life Michigan	2:19-cv-12637-VAR, Musico v. OPO-Mich. - 9/2019
American w/Disabilities - Job Discrimination	Ongoing filing	8/24/2020	Gift of Life Michigan	2:19-cv-13251-SJM, Serra v. OPO-Mich. 11/2019
Organ Procurement dispute	Dismissed - Agreement of Parties	1/2109	Indiana Donor Network	02D03-1710-PL, IDN v. Allen Cty Coronors & Prosecutors -10/2017
Federal Civil Rights violations Job	Dismissed	4/2018	LifeCenter Organ Donor Network	4:17-cv-03600, Amoah v. Lifegift - 11/2017
Federal RICO Corruption - Consent lawsuit	Settlement	9/2019	LifeLink of Georgia (LifeLink Foundation)	8:18-cv-02779-TGW, Mulville v. LifeLink of George - 11/2018
Federal Fair Labor - Sex Discrimination	Settlement	8/2020	LifeShare Transplant of Oklahoma	5:20-cv-00189-F. Robinson v. LifeShare Transplant - 3/2020
Federal Fair Labor - Sex Discrimination	Joint dismissal		LifeShare Transplant of Oklahoma	5:19-cv-00249-G, Schnieder v. LifeShare Transplant - 3/2019
Federal Civil Rights - Wrongful death	Settlement	4/2020	Mid-America Transplant Services	1:18-cv-00148-RLW, E.R. v. Mid-America Transplant - 8/2017
Federal Civil Rights - Sex Discrimination, Retaliation	Ongoing - Sealed Settlement		Nevada Donor Network	2:20-cv-00746-APG, Shinkle v. Nevada Donor Network 4/2020
Federal - American with Disabilities Act - Discrimination	Dismissed	4/2014	OneLegacy	2:13-cv-05240-GAF, Jewell v. OneLegacy -
Employment, Racial Discrimination	Settlement	4/2018	OneLegacy	BC674748. Legree v. OneLegacy - 9/2017