

Justice Dept. watchdog sends McCabe findings to federal prosecutors for possible charges

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Washington (CNN) — The Justice Department's inspector general referred its findings on former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe to the US attorney's office in Washington for possible criminal charges associated with lying to internal investigators, according to a source familiar with the matter.

When exactly the referral was made to the US attorney's office was not immediately clear, and prosecutors there may decline to prosecute.

Last week, the IG issued a report finding that McCabe "lacked candor" on four occasions with internal investigators when discussing a Wall Street Journal article about the FBI's Clinton Foundation investigation, according to a copy of the report obtained by CNN.



Related Article: Justice Department inspector general report cites lack of candor by McCabe

In addition, the inspector general determined that McCabe was not authorized to disclose the existence of the investigation because it was not within the department's "public interest" exception for disclosing ongoing investigations.

The disclosure to the Journal was made "in a manner designed to advance his personal interests at the expense of department leadership," the report said.

While leaking non-classified information is generally not a crime in itself and the IG's investigation was not a criminal probe, lying to federal investigators is a crime.

Referrals are not unusual but the move is significant give McCabe's role as the former No. 2 at the FBI.

A McCabe spokesperson, the Justice Department, the inspector general's office and the US attorney's office all

declined to comment.

The findings formed the basis of McCabe's [firing last month](#) by Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

