

SAFEKEEPING CORPORATION

You are Assistant Director for Administration of a research laboratory for Safekeeping Corporation, a medium-sized Federal contractor. An employee at Safekeeping came to see you, off the record. She was initially very much afraid to talk. Her story was that a lot of drugs were used at a party attended by many of the younger scientists from your laboratory complex. Not only was there a good deal of sharing of marijuana and cocaine; there was a lot of hilarious discussion of making illicit drugs in Safekeeping laboratories.

You are very concerned. Safekeeping has an explicit policy in the employee handbook about drugs—in fact, about drugs and alcohol, because it's important for safety reasons that laboratory employees work with a clear head. Second, you are in a very conservative area of the country, and poignantly aware of how the local citizenry feels about drugs. Third, there has been considerable interest from Congress in how Federal contractors run their businesses. Not the least of your problems, as you think about it, is the idea that a scientist abusing drugs may well be a safety hazard. You feel the company policy is absolutely correct.

After intensive discussions with counsel you decided on an undercover investigation. You hired an infiltrator—a young scientific worker whose purpose actually was to investigate the possibility of drug use. The report is back, six months later: eighteen names are on the list of recreational drug users (using marijuana and cocaine at parties on weekends). One person has actually been seen making amyl nitrite in the lab at night, both by your investigator and by the original informant.

You are absolutely appalled. Recruiting scientists of this rank—and getting them up to speed on a team—costs \$50-100K each. Your major concern, as a senior administrator, is to keep the laboratory working efficiently, and to keep contracts as close to schedule as possible.

You consider who knows about your knowing about this matter. At Safekeeping, there are very few people who know—your counsel, your boss, and the original informant, (who is both quite self-righteous and very afraid of retaliation by the people implicated as drug users). What should you do?