

US Airways workers fired

INVESTIGATION • Three US Airways employees at Philadelphia International Airport have been fired, and a number of others disciplined, for selling their employer-issued "buddy" passes for a profit on flights between Philadelphia and Tel Aviv.

The FBI and the U.S. attorney in Philadelphia are investigating, said a US Airways spokesman, Todd Lehmacher.

The three employees fired were a US Airways manager, a fleet service agent, and a customer service agent, Lehmacher said.

"Several employees were involved in a fraudulent ticket scheme that involved using employee travel benefits to and from Tel Aviv," he said. "It happened about four to six weeks ago.

"It involved employee travel benefits that they were selling to people," said Lehmacher. "I don't know if it was their own benefits, or someone was going into our system . . . and adding more buddy passes.

"There is at least one, or more, outside individuals involved, so we have turned it over to law enforcement for investigation."

Lehmacher said, "We know that there were outside people involved. To the best of our knowledge, no travel agency was involved."

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