



SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

JIM COOPER
Sheriff

CITIZEN COMPLAINT INFORMATION

About us

The Sacramento County Sheriff's Office is responsible for protecting the lives of the citizens of Sacramento County. This Office receives more than 700,000 calls for service annually. Deputies serve as arbitrators in thousands of cases where they are asked to resolve differences between individuals or groups. Many times the decisions made by deputies will restrict the freedom and liberty of these persons. Often these decisions materially affect the course of people's lives.

Each year the Sheriff's Office is also responsible for the processing and care of over 60,000 individuals booked into our correctional facilities. Our deputies are highly trained and serve with professional pride, and they want you, the citizen, to share this pride.

We fully realize that our involvement in complex and often emotionally charged situations may not always result in a level of performance you, the citizen, have grown to expect. For this reason, the Sheriff's Office has a well-defined procedure for assisting citizens who wish to voice their grievances against our operations, policies, or employee conduct.

All investigations are thorough, objective, and are aimed at maintaining public confidence and departmental integrity. The goal is neither to condemn nor to exonerate, but rather to identify and evaluate all the facts surrounding the incident in question.

Complaint effect on criminal prosecution

The investigation within the Sheriff's Office of the conduct of its employees, and the District Attorney's prosecution of a criminal case are two entirely separate matters. If a person arrested by Sheriff's Deputies files a citizen's complaint against those deputies, such action will in no manner affect the prosecutor's independent decision to proceed with the criminal action.

Legal advisement and acknowledgment

The following advisement is required by state law:

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE A COMPLAINT AGAINST A POLICE OFFICER FOR ANY IMPROPER POLICE CONDUCT. CALIFORNIA LAW REQUIRES THIS AGENCY TO HAVE A PROCEDURE TO INVESTIGATE CITIZENS' COMPLAINTS. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO A WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF THIS PROCEDURE. THIS AGENCY MAY FIND AFTER INVESTIGATION THAT THERE IS NOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO WARRANT ACTION ON YOUR COMPLAINT; EVEN IF THAT IS THE CASE, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE THE COMPLAINT AND HAVE IT INVESTIGATED IF YOU BELIEVE AN OFFICER BEHAVED IMPROPERLY. CITIZEN COMPLAINTS AND ANY REPORTS OR FINDINGS RELATING TO COMPLAINTS MUST BE RETAINED BY THIS AGENCY FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS.

IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO MAKE A COMPLAINT THAT YOU KNOW TO BE FALSE. IF YOU MAKE A COMPLAINT AGAINST AN OFFICER KNOWING THAT IT IS FALSE, YOU CAN BE PROSECUTED ON A MISDEMEANOR CHARGE.

I have read and understood the above statement.

Signature of Complainant

Date

Complaint procedure

Every citizen has the right to lodge a complaint against either the Sheriff's Office or any individual member employed by the office. Initial complaints may be made by telephone or letter. However, it will be necessary that the complainant be available for a personal interview. Complaint forms are available at the public counters of all Sheriff's buildings and can also be obtained by contacting the Internal Affairs office. Completed forms may either be delivered or mailed to:

- SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
INTERNAL AFFAIRS
4500 ORANGE GROVE AVENUE
SACRAMENTO, CA 95841
TELEPHONE: (916) 874-5098
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What happens next

When a complaint is received by the Internal Affairs office, a thorough investigation will be conducted. Upon completion of the investigation, all findings are directed through divisional supervisors, along with their respective recommendations, to the Sheriff for his final decision.

Other contacts

In all cases, the citizen making the complaint is informed of its final disposition to the extent allowed by the law. Although department investigators will exert every effort to determine the facts of each situation, in those instances where the citizen feels that a proper investigation has not been conducted, the Sheriff's Office urges that person to seek further recourse through any of the outside agencies listed below.

- SACRAMENTO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
901 G STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TELEPHONE: (916) 874-6218
 - CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
4949 BROADWAY
SACRAMENTO, CA 95820
TELEPHONE: (916) 227-3244
 - FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
2001 FREEDOM WAY
ROSEVILLE CA 95678
TELEPHONE: (916) 746-7000
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