

Complaint Procedures

Last Updated Tuesday, 10 July 2018 11:25

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Not Sustained – The investigation failed to produce a preponderance of evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation.

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Exonerated – The conduct in fact did occur, but the actions of the employee were legal, justified, proper, and in conformance with policy and procedure.

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Unfounded –The allegation of conduct by the employee did not occur.

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Sustained – The investigation produced a preponderance of evidence to substantiate the allegation of an act that was determined to be misconduct.

The investigative report and findings will be forwarded to the Sheriff for review and final decision.

Within one week of the final disposition of a complaint, the Internal Affairs Bureau will contact the complainant, advising that the investigation has been completed.

The most appropriate person to file a complaint is the person experiencing or witnessing the alleged employee misconduct rather than uninvolved parties. The cooperation of the involved party is needed to ensure a successful investigation. However, parents or guardians should feel free to make complaints on behalf of their **minor** children.

When an anonymous complaint is made against an employee and there is no independent corroborating evidence, the complaint shall be classified as unfounded.

A request by the complainant to withdraw the complaint shall not be refused; however the investigation shall continue as far as possible without the assistance of the complainant.

CAUTION:

The Ohio Revised Code 2921.15 states, “No person shall knowingly file a complaint against a peace officer that alleges the peace officer engaged in misconduct in the performance of the officer’s duties if the person knows the allegation is false.” Violation of this law is a first-degree misdemeanor. The person who knowingly files a false allegation may be referred to the appropriate Prosecutor’s Office.