

Complaint Number: _____

You have the right to make a complaint against an officer for any improper conduct. California law requires this agency to have procedures to investigate citizens' complaints. You have the right to a written description of this procedure. This agency may find after the 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 related to complaints must be retained by this agency for at least five (5) 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 understand the above statement:

Signature of person making Complaint:

Date signed:

Received By:

Date Received:

Department Use Only:

Investigator: _____

Tape Recorded: Yes No

Date Closed: _____

FOWLER POLICE DEPARTMENT COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

POLICE STATEMENT

“A proper relationship between the public and its police, fostered by confidence and trust is essential if there is to be effective law enforcement. The police must be able to act independently and make decisions within the bounds of the authority granted to him. He must also be free to exercise his best judgment and to initiate action in a reasonable, lawful, and impartial manner without fear of reprisal, while meticulously observing the right of all the people. Upon the Chief of Police rest the responsibility of providing a system of disciplinary procedures which will not only subject personnel to corrective action when improper conduct is determined, but which will also serve to vindicate personnel from unwarranted charges or criticism when duties are properly performed.”

WHY DO COMPLAINTS OCCUR?

As with all people-oriented business, misunderstandings do arise as to the lawful role of the police officer in handling of various situations. On occasion, the police officer may either exceed his authority or fail to perform up to established standards. When any of these conditions occur, we want to know about it so that appropriate steps can be taken to correct the problem.

HOW WILL MY COMPLAINT BE HANDLED?

In processing your complaint, there are certain procedures that will be followed by the Department. Initially, you will be directed to an on-duty supervisor who will listen to the circumstances of your grievance. If the matter cannot be settled to your satisfaction at this point, you should return this completed, signed form. Your complaint will be assigned to be thoroughly investigated and the findings of the investigator will be forwarded to the Chief of Police.

WHAT INFORMATION NEEDED?

It is important that the facts be presented in a clear manner to insure that the matter is thoroughly investigated. Included must be names, places, dates, times, addresses, and phone number of all persons who may be a witness or who may have information regarding the incident. You may use the reverse side of this form to gather the information that will be required.

WHO CONDUCTS THE INVESTIGATION?

Your complaint will be forwarded to the Chief of Police, and a member of his staff will conduct a confidential investigation into the circumstances alleged.

WILL I FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO MY COMPLAINT?

Each complaint will be thoroughly investigated and you will be advised of the results.

IF I DON'T RECEIVE THE TYPE OF ACTION I EXPECT – THEN WHAT?

If, at any time, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your complaint or the progress of the investigation, you may discuss the matter personally with the Chief of Police or his/her designee by calling the Chief's secretary for an appointment.