

# What if I have a Complaint?

A relationship of trust and confidence between members of the Sheriff's Department and the community we serve is essential to effective law enforcement. Law Enforcement officers must be free to exercise their best judgment and to initiate law enforcement action in a reasonable, lawful and impartial manner and without fear of reprisal. Enforcers of the law also have a special obligation to respect the rights of all persons. The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department acknowledges its responsibility to establish a system of complaint and disciplinary procedures which not only subject employees to corrective action when they conduct themselves improperly, but that will protect them from unwarranted criticism when they discharge their duties properly. It is the purpose of these procedures to provide a prompt, just, open and expeditious disposition of complaints regarding the conduct of members and employees of the Department.

To this end, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department welcomes constructive criticism and valid complaints against its members or procedures.

**BILL BROWN, Sheriff-Coroner**  
**Santa Barbara County**

## HOW DO I MAKE A COMPLAINT?

In order for a formal complaint to be processed, this completed form should be mailed or brought to the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department.

## WILL I BE CONTACTED BY AN INVESTIGATOR?

Once a written complaint is submitted, you will be contacted by an investigator to obtain a verbal statement.

## HOW MUCH TIME DO I HAVE TO FILE A COMPLAINT?

A complaint should be made as soon as possible after the incident as practical. Facts are better ascertained when the incident is reported promptly.

## WILL MY COMPLAINT BE INVESTIGATED?

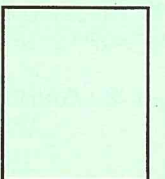
An Internal Affairs Investigator or a supervisor will review your complaint. You may be contacted if more information is needed regarding your complaint. Each complaint is reviewed by Executive Staff at the Sheriff's Department.

## CAN I MAKE AN ANONYMOUS COMPLAINT?

Anonymous complaints may be accepted if there is sufficient information to warrant an investigation without the aid of the person complaining.

## WHAT IF I AM UNDER THE AGE OF 18?

A person under 18 years of age may make a complaint with the knowledge and signature of a legal parent or guardian.



SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
4434 CALLE REAL  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93110



SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
ATTN: INTERNAL AFFAIRS  
4434 CALLE REAL  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93110

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**  
**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**  
**REPORT OF CITIZEN COMPLAINT**

NAME:	DATE OF BIRTH:
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ADDRESS:
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HOME PHONE:	BUSINESS PHONE:	CELL PHONE:
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E-MAIL:
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DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT:	Arrested? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> No	Cited? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Report Number:
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LOCATION OF INCIDENT:
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COMPLAINT IS AGAINST WHICH EMPLOYEE(S):
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IS THE COMPLAINT MADE ON BEHALF OF A MINOR? IF SO, EXPLAIN RELATIONSHIP TO MINOR:
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NATURE OF COMPLAINT (Use additional sheets if necessary):
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**YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE A COMPLAINT AGAINST A SHERIFF'S DEPUTY OR ANY OTHER EMPLOYEE OF THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FOR ANY IMPROPER 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/EMPLOYEE BEHAVED IMPROPERLY. CITIZEN COMPLAINTS AND ANY REPORTS OF 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.**

<b>Complainant</b>	<b>Date</b>
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<b>Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian if under 18 years of age.</b>	
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