



SEASIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Honor, Pride, and Commitment

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CITIZEN COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE

The Seaside Police Department believes that a relationship of confidence and trust with the public is essential to effective law enforcement. Police Officers must be free to exercise their best judgment and to initiate law enforcement action in a reasonable, lawful and impartial manner without fear of reprisal. So too, enforcers of the law have a special obligation to respect meticulously the rights of all persons.

The department acknowledges its responsibility to establish a system of complaint and disciplinary procedures which will subject Officers to corrective action when they conduct themselves improperly.

To this end, the Seaside Police Department welcomes constructive criticism of the department and valid complaints against its members and procedures.

Any person who feels that he or she has been the victim of misconduct by a member of the department may file a "Citizen Complaint." The complaint may be made at any time to any member of the department, but usually will be referred to a supervisor. Complaints of misconduct will be accepted and recorded on a "Citizen Complaint" form available at the department. A copy will be given to you.

The person receiving the complaint will ask you to provide as much information as possible. The complaints will then be investigated in a timely, professional manner. The investigations consist of taking formal statements from all persons concerned and the gathering and preservation of any physical evidence or other information related to the incident. Each allegation is examined on its own merits in an objective manner.

The employee's supervisor or a command officer will examine the investigation and make a recommendation to the Chief of Police.

Generally, complaints will not be accepted from persons who are intoxicated. You should also understand that if you knowingly make false accusations, you may be liable to civil or criminal recourse. You may also be asked to submit to a polygraph examination, but you can not be compelled to take a polygraph examination as part of this investigation.

Form Provided by: _____

INFORMATION ADVISORY

The mission of the Seaside Police Department is to provide quality police services, in partnership with our community, to enhance and maintain a safe environment.

