

OHIO REVISED CODE

2921.15 Making false allegation of peace officer misconduct.

(A) As used in this section, “peace officer” has the same meaning as in section 2935.01 of the Revised Code.

(B) No person shall knowingly file a complaint against a peace officer that alleges that the peace officer engaged in misconduct in the performance of the officer’s duties if the person knows that the allegation is false.

(C) Whoever violates division (B) of this section is guilty of making a false allegation of peace officer misconduct, a misdemeanor of the first degree.

Effective Date: 03-22-2001

SHERIFF’S OFFICE CONTACT NUMBERS

Emergency	911
Communications Center.....	(614) 525-3333
Patrol Bureau	(614) 525-3300
Investigations	(614) 525-3350
Corrections Center I.....	(614) 525-3368
Corrections Center II.....	(614) 525-7100
Community Relations	(614) 525-4507

FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF

ZACH SCOTT



Any citizen, who feels that he or she has been mistreated by a deputy or a civilian employee of the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office, has the right to file a complaint.

This brochure explains how to file a citizen complaint and the process by which complaints are investigated.

FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE
373 South High Street, Floor 2B
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 525-3360
<http://sheriff.franklincountyohio.gov>

SHR_Internal Affairs Brochure (Rev. 5-2012)



Citizen Complaint Information



FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Serving Our Community

Franklin County Sheriff’s Office
Internal Affairs Bureau
410 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 525-3690

<http://sheriff.franklincountyohio.gov>

MISSION STATEMENT

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Columbus, Ohio, is a full service law enforcement agency, an arm of the courts, and the custodial keeper of those who break the law. It is the mission of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Franklin County, to preserve the peace, and to prevent crime and disorder while constantly guarding personal liberties as prescribed by law. This must be done with honor and integrity, conducting ourselves with the highest ethical standards to maintain public confidence.

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office recognizes that it cannot fulfill its mission without community support. It is, therefore, imperative that a dialog characterized by mutual trust and open communication is maintained between the Sheriff's Office and the community. This communication must include a willingness to continually examine and modify policies and procedures to assure that the mission of the Sheriff's Office is accomplished in a manner compatible with the best interests of the community.



CITIZEN COMPLAINT PROCESS

The Internal Affairs Bureau of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office reports directly to the Chief Deputy of Investigations and has the responsibility of investigating certain complaints of misconduct against employees of the Sheriff's Office. Depending on the nature of the complaint, cases are investigated by either the Internal Affairs Bureau or are sent to the employee's direct supervisor for investigation.

Note: Complaints about the underlying reasons for a traffic citation or criminal arrest must be resolved by the court and cannot be investigated as a complaint against a Franklin County Sheriff's Office employee.

HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT

- ★ Pick up and complete a Franklin County Sheriff's Office Citizen Complaint form. Forms are available at all Sheriff's Office locations or at <http://sheriff.franklincountyohio.gov>. You can also file a complaint by calling (614) 525-3333.
- ★ Turn in the completed form to any supervisor of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, mail the form to the Internal Affairs Bureau, or submit the form online.
- ★ The complaint will be immediately referred to the employee's supervisor

for investigation or to the Internal Affairs Bureau. If a supervisor is named or involved in the complaint, then the complaint will be referred to another supervisor.

- ★ Once a complaint is reviewed, the supervisor investigating the complaint will contact you within a reasonable amount of time.
- ★ If the complaint is forwarded to the Internal Affairs Bureau for investigation, the complainant, witnesses and employee may be formally interviewed.
- ★ After an investigation is complete, the disposition of the complaint will be summarized and sent to the Sheriff for review. You will be notified of the outcome of your complaint.
- ★ When an anonymous complaint is made against an employee and there is no independent corroborating evidence, the complaint shall be classified as unfounded.

If you suspect an employee of committing a crime, you must contact the agency with jurisdiction of where the crime occurred. The Internal Affairs Bureau does not conduct criminal investigations.

Any questions or concerns about complaints against Franklin County Sheriff's Office employees can be directed to the Internal Affairs Bureau.