

*Complaints Against
Levelland Police
Officers*



The Levelland Police Department is dedicated to providing the best police service possible to all Citizens. Police officers are carefully selected and given the best training possible in order to provide this service. However, you may have occasion to lodge a complaint about the actions of a member of the Levelland Police Department. In order to be responsible to you, we are providing the following information about how complaints are made, how they are investigated, and their results.

How are complaints made?

When a citizen lodges a complaint against a member of the Levelland Police Department, the complaint goes to the Administration Offices at the police department. An investigator is assigned to review and investigate your complaint. The administrative offices are open from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. each weekday.

Texas law requires that all complaints against police officers must be in writing and signed by the person making the complaint. Just as citizens who are arrested must be notified of the charges against them, the police officer must be given a copy of a personnel complaint before any disciplinary action may be taken.

The complainant needs to provide contact information for the investigation – name, address, phone number, and email.

Complaints must be made within 30 days of the incident complained about, except in special cases (such as criminal misconduct or when a good cause can be shown by the person complaining). Complaints must be made by the person who claims to be aggrieved. Other persons may give statements as witnesses. An administrative investigator will conduct a thorough investigation of your complaint.

False Complaints

Sometimes people make false complaints against police officers. Citizens should be aware that this is a violation of the Texas Penal Code. Section 37.02 provides punishment for an individual adjudged guilty of committing an offense, if with the intent to deceive and with the knowledge of the statement's meaning:

He makes a false statement under oath or swears to the truth of a false statement previously made; and, the statement is required or authorized by law to be made under oath.

A person convicted under this section can be punished by a fine up to \$2000, confinement in jail up to one year, or by both fine and imprisonment.

What happens when a complaint is found to be true?

When the investigation of a complaint reveals that the charges are true and should be sustained against a police officer, a Police Administrator notifies the officer and may take one of the following actions depending on the nature of the violation.

1. Reprimand the employee
2. Suspend the employee without pay
3. Demote the employee
4. Discharge the employee

What happens if the complaint is not true?

Police officers must be accorded certain rights, the same as with all citizens, and complaints must be supported by sufficient evidence.

If there is not sufficient evidence to sustain the complaint, the officer is notified and continues on duty. If he was removed from duty during the investigation, he will be paid for that period.

Officer can appeal the decision

Just as a citizen charged with a criminal offense can appeal a court's decision, a police officer can appeal the action taken against him. The City of Levelland has established procedures for officers to follow in their appeals, just as the Police Department has established procedures for insuring that complaints by citizens against officers are thoroughly and honestly investigated.

The Levelland Police Department is vitally interested in the welfare of all the citizens and in taking action where its employees have proved derelict in their duties or are guilty of wrongdoing. If it becomes necessary for you to make a complaint, you can be assured that it will be given a fair and thorough investigation.

By the same token, if you have occasion to see a police officer doing outstanding work, tell him or her and us about it. Your Levelland Police Officers are individuals who are dedicated to serving you and your community.

Compliments or Complaints?

You can file your complaint / compliment in the following manner:

Fax - (806) 894-4094

Email - eobryon@levellandtexas.org

Direct Mail - 1310 Ave H

Levelland, Texas 79336