

Terrell Police Department Complaint Process

Terrell Police Department is committed to providing exemplary service in a professional manner that ensures all citizens and visitors a safe and secure environment. Police officers are asked to exercise their best judgement under stressful situations, often with limited information and time constraints. However, officers must be courteous, professional, and observe the rights of all citizens while performing their duties.

If a citizen believes an officer or employee has engaged in misconduct, a complaint may be filed. It is our policy to thoroughly investigate all complaints against the Department or its employees. This ensures department integrity while protecting the rights and interests of both citizens and employees.

Texas State Law (Government Code 614.022) requires that all complaints against police officers 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, police officers must be given copies of complaints before any disciplinary action may be taken. The person who claims to be aggrieved must make the complaint; other persons may give statements as witnesses.

Please note: Traffic ticket issues or differences of opinion between officers and citizens over the issuance of the traffic ticket will not be investigated unless there is a specific allegation of misconduct against members of the Department.

Complaints are made by filling out a Complaint Form. The forms must be printed, completed, notarized, and returned in person to the Terrell Police Department. The complaint will be given to the Internal Affairs office for review and investigation.

False Complaints. People who intentionally make false complaints or allegations violate Chapter 37 of the Texas Penal Code. Texas law provides punishment for an individual who makes a False Report to a Peace Officer that is material to a criminal investigation. The Terrell Police Department provides this information to avoid retaliation against police officers or department staff.



TERRELL POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT OF COMPLAINT AGAINST POLICE PERSONNEL

CONFIDENTIAL

Name of complainant: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____ Work # _____

Date and time of incident: _____

Location of incident: _____

Name of officer(s) complaint is being filed against, or other identifying numbers (Car number, badge number, etc.).

Rank _____ Name of officer(s) _____

Badge Number: _____ Vehicle: _____

Name(s) / address / phone number of witnesses:

Complaint Received by _____ Date/Time _____

Terrell Police Department Personnel Complaint

SECTION 37.02, PERJURY.

(a) A person commits an offense if, with intent to deceive and with knowledge of the statement's meaning:

1) he/she makes false statement under oath or swears to the truth of false statement previously made and the statement is required or authorized by law to be made under oath.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 37.08. FALSE REPORT TO PEACE OFFICER OR LAW ENFORCEMENT EMPLOYEE.

(a) A person commits an offense if, with intent to deceive, he knowingly makes a false statement that is material to a criminal investigation and makes the statement to:

**(1) a peace officer conducting the investigation; or
(2) any employee of a law enforcement agency that is authorized by the agency to conduct the investigation and that the actor knows is conducting the investigation.**

(b) In this section, "law enforcement agency" has the meaning assigned by Article 59.01, Code of Criminal Procedure.

(c) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF KAUFMAN

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this date personally appeared the person whose name is set out below as affiant who, after being first duly sworn upon oath deposed and said:

AFFIDAVIT

My name is _____, my residence is _____, and my telephone number is _____. I am employed at _____ located at _____, and my business telephone number is _____. I am hereby initiating this complaint against Police employee _____, Badge/ID Number _____.

I make this affidavit voluntarily and from my own personal knowledge for the purpose of complying with the requirements of Section 143.123, Local Government Code, requiring that complaints be made in writing, signed by the person making the complaint and given under oath. I have read Section 37.02 and Section 37.08 of the Texas Penal Code as set out above, and I am aware of the penalty set out therein for perjury and/or false report to a peace officer or law enforcement employee.

I have read all of the above affidavit including the printed and handwritten portions thereof, and the statements therein are true.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO ME BEFORE by said affiant this the _____ day of _____
20____ to certify which witness my hand and seal of office.

My commission expires ____/____/____.