

VENTURA COUNTY PROBATION AGENCY



CITIZEN COMPLAINT FORM

PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE SECTION 148.6, "YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE A COMPLAINT AGAINST A POLICE OFFICER FOR ANY IMPROPER POLICE CONDUCT. CALIFORNIA LAW REQUIRES THIS AGENCY TO HAVE A PROCEDURE TO INVESTIGATE CITIZENS' COMPLAINTS. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO A WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF THE 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 BEHAVED IMPROPERLY. CITIZEN COMPLAINTS AND ANY REPORTS OR FINDINGS RELATING TO COMPLAINTS MUST BE RETAINED BY THIS AGENCY FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS." YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IF YOU KNOWINGLY AND MALICIOUSLY MAKE A FALSE COMPLAINT OF MISCONDUCT AGAINST AN OFFICER, THAT OFFICER MAY SEEK MONETARY DAMAGES FROM YOU IN A CIVIL LAWSUIT PURSUANT TO CIVIL CODE SECTION 47.5. IF YOUR FALSE COMPLAINT ALLEGES CRIMINAL CONDUCT, YOU MAY ALSO BE PROSECUTED UNDER PENAL CODE SECTION 148.5.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE ABOVE STATEMENT.

_____ **Complainant**

_____ **Date**

COMPLAINANT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Residence

Cell or Business

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Instructions for filing a complaint:

The Probation Agency has established policies and procedures for receiving, investigating, recording, and disposing of signed citizen complaints. If you have a complaint, you may file the complaint in person or by mail. The complaint may be registered with any member of the Probation Agency.

It is important that you provide as much specific information as possible about the incident, including time and date of occurrence, location, the employee's name, and names of witnesses, if any.

Every complaint of misconduct, regardless of its nature, is reviewed for an appropriate level of investigation.

Date of Incident: _____ Time: _____ Location of Incident: _____

Name of staff member(s) involved: _____

Witness name and address: _____

Witness residence phone: _____ Witness cell or business phone: _____

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINT PROCESS:

ONCE YOUR COMPLAINT IS FILED, A PROBATION AGENCY OFFICIAL ASSIGNED BY THE CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER WILL PROMPTLY GATHER ALL INFORMATION PERTINENT TO EACH ALLEGATION OF MISCONDUCT IN THE COMPLAINT. THE CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER WILL MAKE THE FINAL DISPOSITION ON THE CASE. YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED BY LETTER AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE INVESTIGATION. UPON COMPLETION OF THE PUBLIC COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION, DISPOSITION WILL BE NOTED IN ONE OF FOUR WAYS:

- **Unfounded** – The allegation is not supported by the evidence.
- **Exonerated** – The incident complained of occurred, but the employee involved acted lawfully and properly.
- **Not Sustained** – The investigation did not disclose enough information to either prove or disprove the allegation.
- **Sustained** – The allegation is supported by the evidence.

If the allegation is sustained against the employee, the Chief or a supervisor acting on the Chief's behalf shall determine and administer appropriate corrective action. These measures may include additional training, verbal or written reprimand, or suspension without pay. In severe cases, the Chief may demote an employee or terminate the employee from the Agency.

CALIFORNIA LAW PROHIBITS THE CHIEF FROM REPORTING BACK TO YOU THE SPECIFICS OF THE INVESTIGATION OR THE EXTENT OF ANY ACTION WHICH MAY RESULT FROM YOUR COMPLAINT.

Received in Person _____ By Mail _____

Received by _____ Date _____ Time _____