

# **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE A COMPLAINT AGAINST A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FOR ANY IMPROPER LAW ENFORCEMENT CONDUCT.**

- CALIFORNIA LAW REQUIRES THIS AGENCY TO HAVE A PROCEDURE TO INVESTIGATE CITIZEN COMPLAINTS.
- YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO A WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF THIS 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.
- IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO MAKE A COMPLAINT THAT YOU KNOW TO BE FALSE. IF YOU MAKE A COMPLAINT AGAINST AN OFFICER KNOWING THAT IT IS FALSE, YOU CAN BE PROSECUTED ON A MISDEMEANOR CHARGE.

## **Who would investigate my complaint?**

The employee's immediate supervisor or another supervisor will investigate a complaint.

## **Do I have to complain in person?**

No. We prefer to talk to you in person. However, if there are valid reasons this can't be done, your complaint can be made over the phone or by mail. Generally, we do not accept a complaint from another party on your behalf, as this would be considered hearsay information and could leave out important facts need for an investigation. After receiving your complaint, a supervisor will contact you.

## **I'm under 18. Do I have the right to complain?**

Yes. Just bring one or both of your parents or guardians in with you.

## **Will I have to write my complaint out?**

We have found it's much easier to investigate a written complaint, so we prefer them that way. If there are valid reasons this can't be done, we will make other arrangements.

**How thoroughly will you investigate my complaint?**

We will conduct a thorough investigation. We want to determine if there was a policy violation. We promise a fair and objective investigation.

**What will happen to the Employee?**

If the actions were criminal, the employee will be treated like any other person. If they were improper, but not criminal, the employee will be subject to discipline.

**Will I be told how the complaint came out?**

Yes. You will be notified by the District Attorney's Office of the disposition of our investigation. However, the release of specific details concerning the investigation may be limited by law.