

CITIZEN COMPLAINT INFORMATION

HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Goal of the Internal Affairs Unit:

- The goal of the Hillsborough Twp. Police Dept. Internal Affairs Unit is to ensure that the integrity of law enforcement is maintained through a system of internal discipline where fairness and justice are assured by both objective impartial investigation and review. The Hillsborough Twp. Police Dept. is committed to maintaining the public's trust, ensuring fairness, and protecting the rights of both citizens and law enforcement personnel.

How to Register a Complaint:

- Complaints may be filed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You may either visit in person or call the Hillsborough Twp. Police Dept. at (908) 369-4323.

How Complaints are Investigated:

- Your complaint will be referred to the Hillsborough Twp. Police Dept., Internal Affairs Unit where it will be assigned for investigation by a specially trained supervisor to conduct a thorough and objective investigation.
- The supervisor might ask you to assist with the investigation by giving a detailed statement about what happened or providing other important information. All available witnesses will be contacted to ascertain pertinent information relating to your complaint.
- The length of time to conduct an internal investigation will vary, depending upon the complexity of the incident. Please feel free to contact the investigating supervisor at any time during the course of the investigation with any questions or additional information you may have.

The Results:

- When an internal investigation is completed, the Chief of Police will notify you, in writing, of the outcome of the investigation. There are four possible findings:
 1. **Sustained** – The investigation disclosed sufficient evidence to prove the allegation(s).
 - a. If our investigation shows that a crime may have been committed, you may be asked to testify before a grand jury and in court.
 - b. If our investigation results in a police officer being charged with a violation of departmental rules and regulations, you may be asked to testify in an administrative disciplinary hearing. All administrative disciplinary hearings shall be closed to the public unless the law enforcement officer who is the subject of the inquiry requests an open hearing.
 2. **Exonerated** – The actions of the officer were justified, legal and proper.
 3. **Not Sustained** – The investigation failed to disclose sufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegation. The case will be closed, pending further information.
 4. **Unfounded** – The alleged incident did not occur; or there is insufficient information to conduct a meaningful investigation. The case will be closed, and no further action will be taken.

The Law:

1. *It is unlawful to provide a false statement under oath or equivalent affirmation (N.J.S.A. 2C:28-2)*
 - a. False swearing. A person who makes a false statement under oath or equivalent affirmation, or swears or affirms the truth of such a statement previously made, when he does not believe the statement to be true is guilty of a crime.

2. *It is unlawful to provide a false report to law enforcement authorities (N.J.S.A. 2C:28-4)*
 - a. Falsely incriminated another. A person who knowingly gives or causes to be given false information to any law enforcement officer with purposes to implicate another is guilty of a crime.

 - b. Fictitious reports. A person is guilty of a crime if he:
 - (1) Reports or causes to be reported to law enforcement authorities an offense or other incident knowing that it did not occur; or

 - (2) Pretends to furnish or causes to be furnished such authorities with information relating to an offense or incident when he knows he has no information relating to such offense or incident.