



Community Integrity Unit Citizen Complaint Process and Standards

Overview

The Wyandotte County District Attorney's Office believes that transparency and trust should be at the center of every Wyandotte County law enforcement agency. To further promote these values in our community, citizens now can voice any complaints of Wyandotte County law enforcement to an independent investigative branch in the District Attorney's Office.

This removes any appearance of impropriety. Having an independent branch review these situations with no internal bias is critical for validating any findings. In addition, if any criminal findings were to result from an investigation, the District Attorney's Office wields the power to prosecute and hold those individuals accountable for their actions.

Types of Complaints

There are no limitations to what types of complaints may be submitted to the Community Integrity Unit (CIU). The complaints may range from biased-based policing issues, improper treatment, harassment, excessive force, and misdemeanor and felony crimes. There are two primary categories of these types of complaints; administrative and criminal.

Administrative Complaints

The administrative complaint category includes any actions which result in typical administrative punishments. The District Attorney's Office has no authority to issue any type of administrative punishments to any external Wyandotte County law enforcement. Only the individual agency has such authority with their employees.

If the CIU investigates a complaint and finds substantiated evidence that the claim is validated, but no crime has been committed, all findings will be turned over to the originating agency. That agency will have all available information to determine the best course of action for their employee.

Criminal Complaints

Should any investigation result in substantiated findings that a misdemeanor crime has been committed by a law enforcement officer, the findings will be handed over to the CIU Assistant District Attorney for charging decisions and review. These cases will be handled just like every other criminal case.

If substantiated findings exist for a felony crime having been committed, that investigation will be handled jointly between the CIU and another outside law enforcement agency when necessary.

Initiating a Complaint

To initiate a complaint, complete the CIU complaint form and return it to the District Attorney's Office, or leave a detailed voice message on the hotline (913-573-8100). An investigator should contact you within 48 to 72 hours (excluding weekends and holidays). It is important to the CIU to prioritize these complaints based upon several factors including severity, timeliness, and substantive evidence. Following the initial call, the assigned investigator will determine the best course of action for handling the investigation. There are no set forth time restricts for how long an investigation may take.

Older Complaints

The CIU recognizes that many individuals in the Wyandotte County community may have experienced serious issues with law enforcement from years and decades ago. These issues will not be ignored. It is important for our citizens to be heard, listened to, and served as best as possible.

There are unavoidable issues when dealing with older complaints such as statute of limitation laws and unavailable evidence or persons. While these roadblocks may present problems, the CIU still encourages individuals with information to come forward. If any of these issues affected a criminal case or resulted in a wrongful conviction, there is still work that can be done.

When an Investigation is Complete

Following the end of an investigation, it will either be categorized as substantiated or unsubstantiated. Administrative based complaints will be referred to the originating agency for them to handle how they see fit. Criminal based complaints will be dealt with within the District Attorney's Office. The complainant will be informed of the outcome once the investigation is complete.