

Frequent Questions



Is it possible to remain anonymous in filing a complaint?

Anonymous complaints will be accepted. The release of the complainants name will be determined by the Chief of Police and upon completion of the investigation, the names will be released to the accused.

Are there time limitations for filing a complaint?

Complaints of misconduct should be filed as soon as possible and within three months of the incident with the exception of allegations of criminal conduct.

What if the complaint is found to be untrue?

Intentionally filing a false report could subject the complainant to prosecution under the NDCC 12.1-11-02(2) which is a Class A Misdemeanor.

Who do I call regarding the status of my complaint?

During normal business hours, you are encouraged to call the Office of Professional Standards at (701) 787-8184 for updated information pertaining to your complaint.



Grand Forks Police Department
Office of Professional Standards

Phone: (701) 787-8184
Fax: (701) 780-8253
Email: dlove@grandforksgov.com

Grand Forks
Police Department



CITIZEN
COMPLAINT
PROCESS

Grand Forks Police Department

The Grand Forks Police Department is very proud of its employees and the vital role they play in assuring a safe and secure community. In performance of these duties, there are occasions in which questions arise regarding the way a particular situation was handled.

The Grand Forks Police Department is very open to the concerns of the community while balancing fairness and respect for its employees. It is the policy of the Grand Forks Police Department to investigate, to the fullest possible extent, all allegation of misconduct against department employees.

This brochure is designed to inform you of the process involved in filing a complaint. Complaints against department employees are not intended as means of retaliation, false claims, or petty grievances. The purpose of this process is to provide all citizens and department employees with the opportunity to resolve problems, protect individual rights, and improve department performance whenever possible.



How to File a Complaint

During normal business hours, citizens are encouraged to come to the police department located at 122 South 5th Street to file a complaint. Complaints will be received by the on duty supervisor of the Department who is approached for such assistance, and the complaint will be forwarded through the chain of command for review. Complaints may also be received over the phone or in writing.



Complaint Investigation

All complaints will be thoroughly investigated. You will be asked to explain your concerns and to provide specific information relating to your complaint. You will also be afforded the opportunity to give feedback on how you think your complaint may be resolved.

Some investigations may take longer to complete than others which is largely dependent on the complexity of the complaint. Every reasonable effort will be made to complete the investigation within 30 days and many of complaints are resolved in a shorter period of time.

Typically the complaint is investigated by a department supervisor or command staff officer and is forwarded through the chain of command for additional review.

Completed investigations are submitted to the Chief of Police for a final review and further action if appropriate. After the Chief's review, you will be notified of the outcome with one of the following dispositions listed below;

Disposition of Complaints

- **SUSTAINED** means the investigation provided sufficient evidence to support the allegation.
- **NOT SUSTAINED** means the investigation failed to provide sufficient evidence to support the allegation.
- **EXONERATED** means the incident occurred but was lawful, and proper.
- **UNFOUNDED** means the allegation is false or not factual.
- **POLICY FAILURE** means that there was a flaw in a policy which caused the incident.

