

## LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS

My fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality, and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or to my agency. I will maintain calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. Without compromise, I will enforce the law and deal with citizens courteously and appropriately.

I recognize the position I serve as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other employees. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.

I know that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.

I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself to my chosen profession ... law enforcement.



Our Mission: We protect and serve our community with respect and a commitment to excellence



**St. Charles Police  
Department  
Personnel  
Complaint and  
Compliment  
Information**

It is the policy of the St. Charles Police Department to investigate allegations of wrongdoing by any Department member in order to determine the charges, substance, or to exonerate the member.

This pamphlet is intended to provide information to anyone wishing to file a personnel complaint against a Department member.

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**Q. How do I file a complaint against an officer?**

A. A complaint may be filed against a member of the department either in person at the Police Station, by letter or by telephone. A written statement will be filled out and signed by you at some point in the investigation

**Q. Do I have to give my name to file the complaint?**

A. No. However, anonymous complaints can be very difficult to investigate and thus the conclusion might not be what the complainant expected.

**Q. Will my complaint be published in the newspaper?**

A. No. All complaints against Department employees are kept confidential by the Department.

**Q. Will the officer know that I have made a complaint against him?**

A. Yes, the officer has a right to know the charge made against him and the identity of the person making the allegation.

**Q. Who is responsible for investigating the complaint?**

A. The Chief of Police is responsible for the administration of the internal affairs function. An independent investigator might be assigned to gather further information or evidence.

**Q. What will happen to the officer?**

A. After thorough investigation, if it is determined that the complaint is sustained, the discipline will be determined by the seriousness of the infraction. Disciplinary actions range from oral reprimand to suspension or in extreme cases, termination.

**Q. Will the Police Department retaliate against me for making a complaint against an officer?**

A. Absolutely not! It is essential that public confidence be maintained in the ability of the Department to investigate complaints against its members.

**Q. How long will the investigation take?**

A. As a general rule the investigation should be concluded within 30 days, unless extenuating circumstances necessitate extension.

**Q. Will I be notified as to the results of the investigation?**

A. Once the investigation has been concluded, the Chief of police will inform you of the results.

**Q. What if I am not satisfied with the results of the Department's investigation?**

A. You are encouraged to contact the Chief of Police to discuss the matter, meet with the Mayor or, in the case of possible criminal violations, contact the Kane County State's Attorney's Office.

**Q. What if my complaint turns out to be false?**

A. If a complaint is made in good faith and the officer is ultimately exonerated, the case will be ended. However, if it is determined that the complaint was false or intended to embarrass or discredit the officer, you may be subject to criminal charges or a civil suit by the Department member.

**Q. What if I want to compliment a member of the department?**

A. If you see a Department member doing an outstanding job, the Department would also like to hear about that. Simply contact the Supervisor on duty, or send a letter to the Chief of Police.

If you have any questions or would like further information or assistance in filing a complaint or commending an officer, contact :

## **St. Charles Police Department**

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