

Additional Questions:

- **May a person report misconduct over the phone?**
- **Yes**, North Plainfield police will investigate all reported incidents not matter how they are received.
- **May a person report misconduct anonymously?**
- **Yes**, the person can remain anonymous.
- **May a Juvenile report police misconduct without his parent or guardian?**
- **Yes**, age is not a factor in investigating police misconduct and it will be investigated the same as if the complainant was an adult.
- **Will a person be asked their immigration status?**
- **No**, The Attorney General's directive prohibits police officers in New Jersey from asking someone immigration status, unless that person have been arrested for a crime or driving while intoxicated.

It is in the best interests of everyone that any complaint about a police officer be resolved fairly and expeditiously. The North Plainfield Police Department has formal procedures for investigating citizen complaints. These procedures ensure fairness and protect the rights of both citizens and law enforcement officers. Our goal is to ensure that the integrity of law enforcement in North Plainfield is maintained through a system of internal discipline where fairness and justice are assured by objective and impartial investigations.

Citizen Complaint Information



**North Plainfield
Police Department
263 Somerset Street
North Plainfield, New Jersey
07060 Non-Emergency Phone
(908) 769-2937**

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF WILLIAM G. PARENTI

My top priority is to build mutual respect, and to provide equal opportunity policing for everyone that lives, works, or passes through the Borough of North Plainfield. By this I mean, Law Enforcement Services that will be fair, honest, and without bias.

The police department's trustworthiness, comes from being a Welcoming and Inclusive Community. It is imperative that our residents and visitors feel safe, respected, and comfortable in being themselves, while also being able to express all aspects of their identities. We are a place where each person shares a mutual sense of belonging with our other members. Inclusion, as well as the appreciation of, and the valuing of human differences, creates an atmosphere that promotes a sense of belonging, so that everyone feels respected and valued for their uniqueness. It is home. A Proud Community.

The members of the North Plainfield Police Department are committed to providing the best possible law enforcement services. It is important that if any person has a complaint or concern regarding anyone in law enforcement that it be promptly reported.

Goal of the Internal Affairs Unit:

- The North Plainfield Police Department 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 North Plainfield Police Department 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 or call the North Plainfield Police Department, 24 hours a day. Located at 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, N.J. 07060 or call (908) 769-2937.
- A member of the public has the right to make his/her complaint anonymously. He/she does not need to be an American citizen to do so and cannot be required to produce identification or be accompanied by a citizen before a complaint will be accepted.
- The police or Police Department cannot report a person to federal immigration officials in retaliation for the filing of an internal-affairs complaint.
- A juvenile has the right to file an internal-affairs complaint, with or without the presence of a parent or guardian.

- You may email your complaint to the IA Lieutenant tips@northplainfieldnj.gov

How Complaints are Investigated:

- To ensure an extremely thorough investigation, your complaint will be referred to the North Plainfield Police Department, Internal Affairs Unit where a specially trained Internal Affairs officer will conduct a thorough and objective investigation.
- The Internal Affairs officer 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. If there is an extended delay in the investigation, for any reason, you will be notified. Please feel free to contact the Internal Affairs officer at any time during the course of the investigation with any questions you may have.

The Results:

- When an internal investigation is completed, the North Plainfield Police Department Internal Affairs detective 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).

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.

In Closing:

The North Plainfield Police Department, wants to instill a belief in our community policing philosophy, and establish a confidence that “we as police officers, care more about your well-being than your immigration status, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation.” In many communities across New Jersey, the relationship between members of the community and law enforcement is strained. Our mission as police officers is to protect life, property, and to solve crimes without bias. That goal would be virtually impossible to do effectively, if witnesses or victims had some reluctance to come forward. We have no concern about a person's immigration status, and we do not ask that question of a victim or witness. It is imperative that law enforcement maintain the trust and support of the people they serve.