

How do I file a complaint?

The Yankton Police Department prides itself on being a transparent and hospitable public safety organization. Our goal is to never have a complaint filed against an officer. However, there are two ways in which a citizen can file a complaint related to police misconduct.

- 1) Call the police department and ask to speak with a supervisor. The supervisor will complete the officer complaint form over the phone.
- 2) Come into the Yankton Police Department and ask to speak with a supervisor. The supervisor will work with you to complete the officer complaint form. If the supervisor is the reason for the complaint, ask to speak with a Police Commander or the Chief of Police.

NOTE: For an investigation to start, the complainant must sign the officer complaint form.

How is the complaint processed?

The Police Department must follow certain procedures when conducting misconduct complaint investigations. The assigned Yankton Police Department personnel will contact you, all available witnesses, and involved employees. Taped interviews may be conducted, and the investigator will examine any relevant physical evidence and gather information pertinent to each allegation made in the complaint. Each allegation will be examined on its own merit in an objective manner. The investigator completes a comprehensive investigative report and submits it to the Police Chief. A finding is made on each allegation, and each is classified as follows:

Unfounded: The alleged act(s) did not occur or did not involve department personnel.

Exonerated: The alleged act(s) occurred, but were justified, lawful, and proper.

Not Sustained: There is insufficient evidence to prove or disprove the allegation.

Sustained: There is sufficient evidence to establish the act(s) occurred and that it constituted misconduct.

Notification of Findings

If you so choose, you will be notified in writing of the disposition (finding) of the complaint at the completion of the investigation. The Police Department is unable to disclose what discipline (if any) was taken against the officer(s). If the complaint allegation(s) is sustained, the Police Chief will administer appropriate disciplinary action against the employee(s). The range of discipline includes remedial training, counseling, verbal or written reprimand, suspension, demotion, termination, and or prosecution.

All personnel files including personnel complaints are considered confidential.

What if you are not satisfied with the results of the investigation?

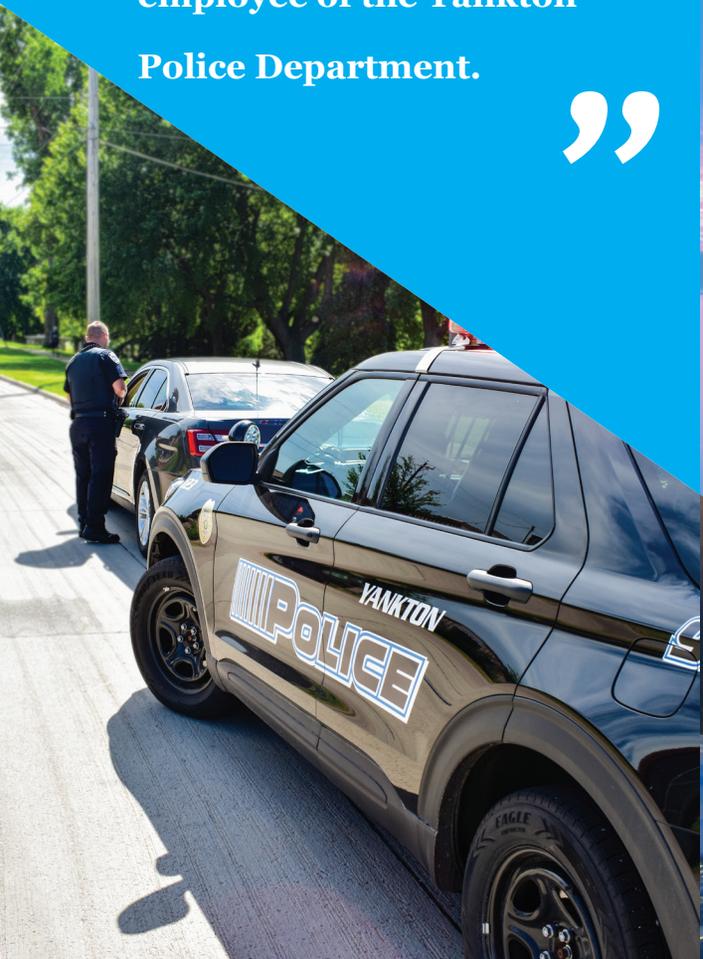
We sincerely hope that would never happen. But if it does, we encourage you to contact the Police Chief at 605-668-5210 to discuss the outcome of the investigation. We may be able to provide you additional information and explanation that would be helpful to you. If this does not satisfy you, you may call the City Manager at 605-668-5221 or by email at ALeon@cityofyankton.org.



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The Police Department’s goal is to make the Misconduct Complaint process available to all persons who believe they have been aggrieved during an interaction with an employee of the Yankton Police Department.

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Mission Statement:

Delivering exceptional services by partnering with the community to provide a safe and secure city.

Chief John W. Harris
Yankton Police Department
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605-668-5210



Yankton Police Department Citizen Complaint Guide