

Commending Exceptional Performance

1. *It is unlawful to provide a false report to law enforcement authorities (N.J.S.A. 2C: 28-4)*
 - a. Falsely incriminating another. A person who knowingly gives or causes to be given false information to any law enforcement officer with purposes to implicate another commits a crime of the fourth degree.
 - b. Fictitious reports. A person commits a disorderly persons offense if he:
 - (1) Reports or causes to be reported to law enforcement authorities an offense or other incident within their concern knowing that it did not occur; or
 - (2) Pretends to furnish or causes to be furnished such authorities with information relating to an offense or incident when he knows he has no information relating to such offense or incident.

The best way to commend the actions of the Sheriff's Office employee is to write a brief letter describing the incident and the actions you think were exceptional. Information such as the date, time and location will help identify the officer if you don't know his or her name. If you choose not to write, you may ask to speak with the officer's supervisor and make a verbal commendation.

Commendations received by the Sheriff's Office are forwarded to the employee with a copy placed in his or her personnel file. Although our employees don't expect to be thanked for everything they do, recognition of exceptional service is always welcomed and appreciated. This type of feedback helps this Office to know if we are performing to the highest standards as set forth by the Morris County Sheriff, James M. Gannon.

Morris County Sheriff's Office
PO Box 900
Morristown, NJ 07963-0900

Main Number (973) 285-6600

Internal Affairs (973) 285-6623

<https://sheriff.morriscountynj.gov/>

Citizens Guide to Making Complaints/Inquiries and Commendations



James M. Gannon
Sheriff

The Morris County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing high quality services to the citizens of Morris County. In order to be responsive to community needs, it is necessary to have citizen input. Your constructive comments about our services will assist this Office to improve and to achieve our organizational goals.

The Goal of the Internal Affairs Section:

- The goal of the Morris County Sheriff's Office Internal Affairs Section 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 Morris County Sheriff's Office 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 Morris County Sheriff's Office Monday through Friday (except holidays) from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., online at <https://sheriff.morriscountynj.gov/> or call (973) 285-6623.
- 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 can not be required to produce identification or be accompanied by a citizen before a complaint will be accepted. The Sheriff's Office can not 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.

How Complaints are Investigated:

- To ensure an extremely thorough investigation, your complaint will be referred to the Morris County Sheriff's Office Internal Affairs Section where a

specially trained Internal Affairs detective will conduct a thorough and objective investigation.

- The Internal Affairs detective 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 detective at any time during the course of the investigation with any questions you may have.

The Results:

- When an internal investigation is completed, the Morris County Sheriff's Office 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).
 - a. If our investigation shows that a crime may have been committed, you may be asked to testify before a grand jury and in court.
 - b. If our investigation results in a Sheriff's Officer, detective or Superior Officer being charged with a violation of departmental rules and regulations, you might be asked to testify in an administrative disciplinary hearing. All administrative disciplinary hearings

shall be closed to the public unless the Sheriff's Officer who is the subject of the inquiry requests an open hearing.

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.

The Law:

1. **It is unlawful to provide a false statement under oath (N.J.S.A. 2C:28-2)**
 - a. False swearing. A person who makes a false statement under oath or equivalent affirmation, or swears or affirms the truth of such a statement previously made, when he does not believe the statement to be true, is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree.

