

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What happens after I file a complaint with the CPRB?

You will receive a letter from the Board notifying you that your complaint has been received. After you file your complaint, staff at the CPRB and APD Office of Professional Standards (OPS) will determine if it falls within the CPRB's jurisdiction. If your complaint is not in our jurisdiction, it is referred to the appropriate agency or entity to investigate the incident. If it is within our jurisdiction, you will receive a letter from the CPRB informing you of our next steps.

Can I file a complaint if I don't know the name and/or badge number of the officer?

Yes. We often get complaints against unidentified officers. CPRB investigators or OPS detectives are usually able to identify the officers.

Can I file an anonymous complaint?

Yes, you can file an anonymous complaint. However, if you would like our office to follow up with you, please be sure to provide your first and last name and preferred method of contact.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The CPRB maintains an ongoing program to educate the public about the purpose of the CPRB and the complaint review process. The CPRB is actively involved in community outreach, including participating in and hosting community events, co-facilitating educational programs, and forging partnerships in the community.

LEARN MORE

- Visit www.albanycprb.org
- Email cprb@albanylaw.edu to request a presentation about the CPRB in your community
- Share your thoughts about police-community relations at our monthly public meeting. For information on our upcoming meeting visit: www.albanycprb.org/board-meeting

Albany Community Police Review Board (CPRB)

518-434-2383

Albany Law School
80 New Scotland Avenue
Albany, NY 12208

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/AlbanyCPRB



HAVE YOU WITNESSED OR EXPERIENCED POLICE MISCONDUCT?

File a complaint with the Albany Community Police Review Board

WHO WE ARE

The Albany Community Police Review Board (CPRB) independently reviews and investigates complaints of alleged misconduct committed by officers of the City of Albany Police Department (APD). The CPRB is staffed by civilians, and it is not part of the APD.

JURISDICTION

The CPRB is authorized to review and investigate various types of allegations of police misconduct involving officers of the APD. Complaints against members of police departments other than the APD must be filed with the appropriate local or state police department.

FILE A COMPLAINT

If you have experienced or witnessed potential misconduct by a member of the APD:

- Fill out the complaint form online
- Or download a paper form at www.albanycprb.org.
- Click “File a Complaint.”

Send your signed complaint form via email to cprb@albanylaw.edu or mail the paper copy to:

Albany Community Police Review Board
via Government Law Center
Albany Law School
80 New Scotland Ave
Albany, NY 12208

The complaint form is available in English and Spanish.

HOW COMPLAINTS ARE RESOLVED

The CPRB determines whether complaints are appropriate for review, monitoring, investigation, or mediation. If the complaint is determined appropriate for review, Albany Police Department’s Office of Professional Standards (OPS) will lead the investigation.

Monitor

The CPRB can assign a monitor to observe and monitor the OPS investigation of a complaint if the allegation involves excessive force or civil rights violation.

Independent Investigation

A CPRB investigation is a comprehensive way to gather evidence about allegations of police conduct within the CPRB’s purview and prepare reports for action by the Board. The CPRB investigators gather as much evidence as possible, including obtaining video evidence and statements from witnesses and officers.

An investigation can take several months to complete. Your cooperation, which will involve answering questions and giving a complete statement about the incident, is vital. When the investigation is complete, the CPRB makes a determination of whether the officer violated department policy.

Discipline

If the CPRB finds that an officer committed misconduct after a completed investigation, it recommends discipline, which can range from verbal warning to termination from the APD for the most serious violations. Only the Chief of Police has the authority to decide the level of discipline and impose punishment on an officer.

Mediation

Mediation provides an opportunity for civilians and police officers to meet in a safe, quiet, and private space with a trained and impartial mediator to talk confidentially about what happened. Mediation is a voluntary process—all parties must agree to participate. You can request mediation on your complaint form.

