

# POLICE COMPLAINT ALLEGATION DEFINITIONS

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**MISCONDUCT:** An allegation against an employee involving a violation of any law, department order, rule, regulation, or policy. The following is a list of misconduct classifications and their definitions. More than one classification can be attached to a complaint.

**A. CONDUCT UNBECOMING**

Behavior that is malicious or criminal, or a failure to follow ordinary and reasonable rules of good conduct and behavior while on or off duty. This includes any misconduct bringing discredit upon the Department.

**B. DISCOURTESY**

Rude or abusive actions directed toward another person.

**C. DISCRIMINATION**

Allegations that the employee's actions or misconduct was due to race, sex, religion, physical disability, ethnicity or sexual orientation of an individual.

**D. DISHONESTY**

Theft, misappropriation of funds, property of the City or others, or giving false, or misleading information.

**E. FALSE ARREST**

Most of these situations deal with the arrest and become legal rather than internal matters. The District Attorney and the courts usually have to make the decision in these levels of complaints. Often these complaints turn into civil suits and are investigated as such. If it is determined through legal channels that the complaint may be sustained, the Sacramento Police Department's Internal Affairs Division shall conduct an internal investigation.

**F. FIREARM DISCHARGE**

Anytime a firearm is discharged in violation of Department policy.

**G. FORCE**

Covers any amount of force from shoving or pushing to excessive.

**H. HARASSMENT**

Any employee action or conduct including, but not limited to, the making of threats of violence, physical intimidation, verbal abuse, derogatory comments, sexual demands or an act of retaliation because of the sex, race, ancestry, physical handicap, medical condition, marital status, age, sexual preference, or any other protected characteristic of an individual.

**I. IMPROPER SEARCH and SEIZURE**

As in false arrest, this is a legal matter and is handled in the same manner. When the complaint indicates a probability of misconduct, an immediate internal investigation is conducted by Internal Affairs.

**J. IMPROPER TACTICS**

Procedures used by an employee that could be different from approved procedures. Examples could be using other than approved techniques to handcuff suspects, mishandling a call to the point that the employees inflame rather than alleviate the situation and giving inappropriate advice or taking inappropriate action.

**K. INSUBORDINATION**

Failure or refusal to follow a lawful written or verbal order of a superior.

**L. INTOXICATION**

On duty personnel under the influence of intoxicants.

**M. MISSING PROPERTY**

Property which has, at one time, been in the custody or control of a member of the Department, but is subsequently unaccounted for or missing.

**N. NEGLECT OF DUTY**

The failure to perform a required duty.

**O. SERVICE**

The failure to provide adequate, timely and required police action.

**P. TRAFFIC**

Improper or illegal driving by an employee.

**Q. WAGE GARNISHMENT**

Failure to pay just debts.