

Criminal Complaints

The District Attorney's Office accepts cases from law enforcement agencies. This is necessary because we are not staffed to conduct the comprehensive investigation required to prepare cases for review and prosecution. The responsibility for investigating allegations of criminal conduct and initiating criminal cases is that of the police and other investigative agencies.

If you have not reported your allegations to the police, you should do so in order that a criminal investigation can be conducted. In the event the investigation reveals sufficient evidence to support a finding that a criminal offense has probably been committed, a criminal case may be filed and forwarded to our office for prosecution.

If you have reported your allegations to the police, and no action was taken thereon, we will assume that its investigation failed to reveal sufficient evidence to support the filing of a criminal case as a result of the incident described in your complaint and will not, except in the most unusual circumstances, substitute our judgment for that of the investigating officer.

In summary, while we may assist in criminal investigations, we are not primarily an investigative agency and must necessarily rely upon law enforcement. In the event a criminal case is filed it is forwarded to our office for prosecution. Our duty is to represent the state in all criminal cases in the courts of Galveston County.

Common Complaints & Filing Information

- Attorneys:** Information pertaining to problems with your lawyer and the filing of a complaint may be found online at www.texasbar.com
- Police Officers:** Should be filed with the Office of Professional Standards (Internal Affairs) or Chief of Police of the Department by whom the officer is employed.
- Criminal:** Need to be filed with the police or other investigative agency which has jurisdiction in the locale where the offense occurred.
- Consumer:** Information pertaining to consumer protection and the filing of a claim can be found at the Office of the Attorney General of Texas www.oag.state.tx.us/consumer; the Texas Consumer Complaint Center www.texasccc.com; the Houston Better Business Bureau www.houston.bbb.org. Our office **does accept** and occasionally investigate complaints alleging **major** violations of Chapter 32 (Fraud) of the Texas Penal Code and other penal statutes.

Open Meeting/Open Records Violations:

Fill out the checklist with all of the pertinent information and direct to the First Assistant, Kevin Petroff.

Public Integrity Complaints against a Governmental Agency or Public Servant:

Fill out the checklist with all of the pertinent information and direct to the First Assistant, Kevin Petroff.

Peace Bonds:

A peace bond proceeding is designed to **prevent** the commission of a threatened offense against you or your property. It is not a restraining order or protective order. It should be filed in the Justice of the Peace Court where you or the other party resides.