

UNITED AS ONE

A Cross-Cultural Coalition for Law Enforcement Accountability

What if you feel that a Police Officer has harmed you in some way?

1. First and foremost, take care of yourself. Do what you need to do to make yourself feel safe. Talk to a trusted friend or family member. If you are injured seek medical
2. In the midst of an interaction with an officer, do not challenge or accuse the officer of misconduct. Stay Calm. If you disobey a police officer's direct order, this can lead directly to arrest. If you offer any physical resistance, this can justify an officer using force against you. Remain silent so you don't say anything incriminating, but you may have to provide police with your name and address.
3. Observe everything that happens. Note any witnesses or other people involved & get their contact info. Write down everything you remember, including time & location of Incident, the names, rank and badge numbers of any officers involved, identification numbers on their vehicles. Document any injuries, medical treatment, lost work time or other costs connected to the arrest.

What kinds of things can you report about an officer's conduct?

1. If an officer utilized unnecessary force (including the use of a baton, taser, or other weapon), or seemed to act with an intent to cause you serious injury.
2. If an officer was unnecessarily rude, dismissive, verbally abusive, used language aimed at demeaning or humiliating you, or used epithets that demonstrate bias towards your race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, etc.

Who can you contact to report or follow up on police conduct?

1. Office of the Mayor or Administrator for the town, city, or county where the incident took place. (Syracuse Mayor: 315-448-8005, Onondaga County Executive: 315-435-3516, or to link to official websites of NY State cities, towns, or villages go to www.statelocalgov.net/state-ny.cfm)
2. Attorney for that town, city or county (often called "corporation counsel.") They may provide you with a legal form called a "notice of claim to fill out and return within 90 days after the incident in order to preserve your right to file a lawsuit within 1 year from the incident.
3. Chief or Deputy Chief of the Police Department the officer(s) work for, or call the main number And ask to speak to their Internal Affairs (IA) Division or Office of Professional Standards (OPS). (Syracuse Police OPS (315) 442-5102 & Onondaga County Sheriff (315) 435-3044)
4. The Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) was re-started through the passage of new legislation in December 2011. To request *independent investigation and review* of a complaint by the CRB, send a written description or completed complaint form to CRB *c/o City Council Office, 314 City Hall, 233 E. Washington St., Syracuse, NY 13202*. Note: As required in the legislation, a copy of your complaint will also be sent to Office of Professional Standards of the Syracuse Police.
5. Community organizations, public interest or advocacy organizations that provide consultation, information, referrals to attorneys, or work with crime victims. In Onondaga County these include:

Syracuse/Onondaga NAACP or its President Preston Fagan – (315) 430-3533 or 315-422-6933
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) – (315) 475-6153 or luzencarnacion@yahoo.com
NY State Affiliate of the ACLU (NYCLU) or its Director – (315) 471-2821 or bgewanter@nyclu.org
Syracuse ANSWER Coalition or Derek Ford – (315) 491-6987 or syracuse@answercoalition.org
National Action Network (NAN) or President Walter Dixie – (315) 474-0922 or waltdixie@aol.com
Onondaga Human Rights Specialist Bridget Owens – (315) 435-3565 or bridgetowens@ongov.net
SAGE Upstate or its Director Kim Dill on behalf of the Rainbow Alliance of CNY – (315) 478-1923
Disabled in Action or its President Sally Johnston – (315) 410-3317 or sjohnston@enablecny.org