



**BELLS POLICE DEPARTMENT
203 S. BROADWAY
BELLS, TX 75414
903-965-7744**

**FROM THE OFFICE
OF THE
CHIEF OF POLICE**

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Racial Profiling and Complaint Procedures

The Bells Police Department is dedicated to providing exceptional service to its citizens and employees. Police employees are carefully selected, held to the highest standards, and provided with the best training available. Officers with the Bells Police Department complete the same training that an officer from Dallas, Houston, or Amarillo receive.

We are interested in the welfare of all citizens and in taking immediate action when our employees have proven derelict in their duties, or are guilty of wrongdoing. If it becomes necessary for you to make a complaint, you can be assured that it will be given a fair and thorough investigation.

MISSION

The Bells Police Department is directed to preserve law and order and enforce our society's laws and ordinances. It is our mission to create a high quality of life and provide a safe, secure and sanitary environment for the citizens of Bells. Our goal shall be to make the City of Bells a safer and better city in which to live, work and raise a family.

CORE VALUES

- We will hold the preservation of life as our most sacred duty.
- We will always strive to maintain the highest standard of honesty and integrity and will accept nothing less than the truth.
- We recognize that our mission is to enforce the laws of society. We will do so in a fair and impartial manner always remembering that our role is to resolve problems, not judge or punish.
- We will honor our police powers and be mindful that they are derived from the people we serve. We will not tolerate abuse of our authority.
- We will honor and uphold the public trust and be accountable to those we serve.
- We will respect and protect the constitutional rights of all citizens, treating them with courtesy and respect and using force only when necessary.
- We recognize that our personal conduct, both on and off duty, is inseparable from our professional reputation as individuals of the department.
- We recognize that the origin and responsibility for leadership rests within each member of the department, no matter what our rank or position.
- We will always strive to expand our personal and professional growth through continued education, training and involvement within our community.
- We will always remain accountable to one another, our department and the citizens we serve.

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[About Racial Profiling](#)

DEFINITIONS



Racial Profiling: A law enforcement-initiated action based solely on an individual's race ethnicity, or national origin rather than on the individual's behavior or on information identifying the individual as having engaged in criminal activity. The term is not relevant as it pertains to witnesses, complaints, persons needing assistance, or other citizen contacts. The prohibition against racial profiling does not preclude the use of race, ethnicity, or national origin as factors in such a decision when used as part of a description of a suspect or witness for whom a police officer is searching.

Reasonable suspicion: Also known as articulable suspicion. Suspicion that is more than a mere hunch, but is based on a set of articulable facts and circumstances that would warrant a person of reasonable caution in believing that an infraction of the law has been committed, is about to be committed, or is in the process of being committed, by the person or persons under suspicion. This can be based on the observations of a police officer combined with his or her training and experience, and/or reliable information received from credible outside sources.

Criminal Profiling: An investigative method in which an officer, through observation of activities and environment, identifies suspicious people and develops a legal basis to stop them for questioning.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to unequivocally state that racial and ethnic profiling in law enforcement are totally unacceptable, to provide guidelines for officers to prevent such occurrences, and to reinforce procedures that serve to ensure public confidence and mutual trust through the provision of services in a fair and equitable fashion, and to protect our officers from unwarranted accusations when they act within the dictates of the law and Department policy.

A fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States to all who live in this nation is to equal protection under the law. Along with this right to equal protection is the fundamental right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures by government agents. Citizens are free to walk and drive our streets, highways, and other public places without police interference so long as they obey the law. They are also entitled to be free from crime, and from the depredations of criminals, and to drive and walk our public ways safe from the actions of reckless and careless drivers.

This department is charged with protecting these rights, for all, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, physical handicap, religion or other belief system, veteran status, or genetic information. Officers shall conduct themselves in a dignified and respectful manner at all times when dealing with the public.

Because of the nature of their business, law enforcement officers are required to be observant, to identify unusual occurrences and law violations, and to act upon them. It is the proactive enforcement that keeps our citizens free from crime, our streets and highways safe to drive upon, and that detects and apprehends criminals. Officers shall actively enforce city ordinances, state and federal laws in a responsible and professional manner, without regard to race, color, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, physical handicap, religion or other belief system, veteran status, or genetic information. Officers are strictly prohibited from engaging in racial profiling as defined by this policy. This policy shall be applicable to all persons, whether drivers, passengers, or pedestrians.

PROHIBITION

Police Officers of the City of Bells are strictly prohibited from engaging in racial profiling.

COMPLAINT PROCESS

Any person who believes that a police officer employed by the Bells Police Department has engaged in racial profiling with respect to that person may file a complaint with the Department, and no person shall be discouraged, intimidated, or coerced from filing such a complaint, or be discriminated against because they have filed such a complaint.

HOW DO I FILE A COMPLAINT?

A person wishing to file a complaint should first contact the on-duty Bells Police Officer at 903-965-7744 or 903-813-4408. The Officer will give you a Bells Police Department Complaint Form. If you unable to come to the Bells Police Department, a form will be mailed to you.

Complaints of misconduct must be filed within thirty days of occurrence.

You are required to submit a notarized complaint form with your signature.

An investigation of the complaint will be conducted as thoroughly as possible.

IMPORTANT!

LAW ENFORCEMENT CAN BE DANGEROUS WORK!

OFFICERS HAVE TO BE CAUTIOUS AT ALL TIMES!

PLEASE DO NOT ASSUME THE OFFICER KNOWS YOU ARE A LAW ABIDING CITIZEN!



SWORN AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF GRAYSON

DATE: _____
TIME: _____

Before me, the undersigned authority, appeared _____
(Print Affiant's Name)
who after being duly sworn on his/her oath deposes and says:

My full name is: _____. I am ____ years of age, and my date of birth is: _____. I currently reside at: _____, in _____, _____, _____.
(state) (zip code) My home telephone number is: _____, and my work number is _____. I can also be contacted at _____. My driver's license or official identification number is: _____, and my Social Security Number is: _____.

I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT UNDER TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 143.123 THAT:

“AN INVESTIGATOR MAY NOT CONDUCT AN INTERROGATION OF A FIREFIGHTER OR POLICE OFFICER BASED UPON A COMPLAINT BY A COMPLAINANT (PERSON) WHO IS NOT A PEACE OFFICER UNLESS THE COMPLAINANT (PERSON) VERIFIES THE COMPLAINANT IN WRITING BEFORE A PUBLIC OFFICER WHO IS AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO TAKE STATEMENTS UNDER OATH.”

In order to conduct a complete and thorough investigation of your complaint, we need you to answer the following questions. Please be as specific as possible.

1. Date of Incident: _____ Time of Incident: _____ am/pm
2. Location of incident (address) _____
3. Number of Bells Police Officers involved: _____

List any names, badge numbers, vehicle numbers and/or license plate numbers, and/or provide physical descriptions of the officer(s) involved:

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

Page _____ of _____ Initials: _____ Date: _____

Issue Record # _____ Incident # _____



4. Number of witnesses who observed the incident: _____
Provide full names addresses, phone numbers, and any other identifying data. If there are no witnesses, please write the word "NONE."

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____

5. Did you sustain any injuries? _____ If yes, please list the type of injuries which were a result of this particular incident: _____

6. Did you receive any medical attention? _____ If yes, please provide the name, address, and telephone number(s) of any doctor's office and/or hospital, as well as the date you received treatment. _____

7. Were you arrested? _____ Were you issued any tickets? _____ If yes, to either question, please list the charges filed and/or citations issued and the disposition. _____

8. Please give a detailed accounting of what happened.
(use additional page if necessary)



I have completed _____ years of school and can read and write the English Language. I have read this statement in its entirety and certify it is correct and true to the best of my knowledge.

(Name: Printed)

(Signature)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, _____.

Notary Signature: _____ (Notary Stamp/Seal)

(NOTE: A typed or hand-written statement may be attached in lieu of section 8 of this document. However, the document must be dated and signed in the presence of a Notary Public). All pages of the statement must be dated and initialed.

Page _____ of _____

Initials: _____ Date: _____



Sec. 37.02. PERJURY. (a) A person commits an offense if, with intent to deceive and with knowledge of the statement's meaning:

(1) he makes a false statement under oath or swears to the truth of a false statement previously made and the statement is required or authorized by law to be made under oath; or

(2) he makes a false unsworn declaration under Chapter [132](#), Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

Acts 1973, 63rd Leg., p. 883, ch. 399, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1974. Amended by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 900, Sec. 1.01, eff. Sept. 1, 1994.

Sec. 37.03. AGGRAVATED PERJURY. (a) A person commits an offense if he commits perjury as defined in Section [37.02](#), and the false statement:

(1) is made during or in connection with an official proceeding; and

(2) is material.

(b) An offense under this section is a felony of the third degree.

Acts 1973, 63rd Leg., p. 883, ch. 399, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1974. Amended by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 900, Sec. 1.01, eff. Sept. 1, 1994.