

THE COMPLAINT PROCESS

Communication from the public can provide valuable information to the Grand Jury. Anyone may ask the Grand Jury to conduct an investigation of any issue within its jurisdiction. By law, the proceedings of the Grand Jury are confidential. The ability to investigate a complaint may be affected by workload, resource limitations, or legal restrictions.

WHO THE GRAND JURY CAN INVESTIGATE

If a matter is within the legally permissible scope of its investigative powers and would warrant further inquiry, the Grand Jury may request additional information. If a matter does not fall within the Civil Grand Jury's investigative authority, or the panel determines not to investigate a complaint further, no action will be taken.

The Grand Jury has no jurisdiction or authority to investigate Federal or State agencies or the Court.

GRAND JURY AUTHORITY IS LIMITED BY STATUTE AND INCLUDES:

- *Conducting investigations of public entities within Sacramento County to improve their effectiveness and efficiency*
- *Consideration of evidence of misconduct against public officials to determine whether to present formal accusations*
- *Publishing findings which may only be communicated in a report issued either at the conclusion of its study or in its formal final report issued each year and presented to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court*
- *Inquiry into potential criminal actions when requested by the District Attorney as part of a criminal indictment*

HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT

- *Present your complaint as soon as possible*
- *Identify your specific concern and describe the circumstances as clearly and concisely as possible*
- *Document your complaint with copies of pertinent information and evidence in our possession*

COMPLAINT FORM

Download your complaint form at:

www.saccourt.ca.gov/grand-jury/docs/complaint.Pdf

Mail or deliver your complaint
in a sealed envelope to:
720 9th Street, Room 611
Sacramento, California 95814

YOU HAVE A VOICE

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

GRAND JURY

COMPLAINT PROCESS

www.SacGrandJury.org

916-874-7559



THE GRAND JURY

The Sacramento County Grand Jury is a 19-member team of people from every walk of life who volunteer for a one-year term to ensure that the institutions of government are responsive and fair. It also protects minority opinions or unpopular causes from persecution or prosecution. The Grand Jury has a long history and has adapted throughout the centuries to meet the needs and conditions of each time period.

Grand Juries perform two primary roles. The first is to inquire into, and investigate if necessary, the operations of local government agencies and officials to ensure that activities are valid and services are efficiently and legally provided. The other is to evaluate the validity of charges being brought by a prosecutor to ensure they are not frivolous or ungrounded. In both instances, the secrecy of the Grand Jury's deliberations is vital to make certain independent and objective consideration is given to all facts brought before it.



OUR HISTORY

The Grand Jury system has been used in England since the twelfth century. Grand Juries were brought to America in 1635 when the Massachusetts Bay Colony empanelled the first one in the new land. The Grand Jury system has been embedded in the California Constitution since the beginning of statehood in 1850. The Sacramento County Civil Grand Jury operates under this constitutional mandate, which calls for a Grand Jury in every county.



WHAT WE DO

A major function of the Sacramento County Grand Jury is to examine local county and city government, special districts, school districts, and any joint powers agency located within the county to ensure their duties are being carried out lawfully in an effective manner consistent with legislative intent.

THE GRAND JURY MAY:

- *Review and evaluate procedures to determine whether more efficient and economical methods may be used*
- *Inspect and audit books, review records, and financial expenditures to ensure that public funds are properly accounted for and legally spent*
- *Investigate any charges of willful misconduct in office by public officials*
- *Inquire into the condition and management of facilities*