

**Mission Statement:**

- ★ Protect the community.
- ★ Prevent crime.
- ★ Solve problems.

**Values:**

- ★ Integrity
- ★ Leadership
- ★ Service

**Vision Statement**

The Indian River County Sheriff's Office strives for **Excellence** in service through partnerships with the community.



# INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Indian River County Sheriff's Office  
 4055 41st Avenue  
 Vero Beach, Florida 32960 (772) 569-6700  
 Website: [www.ircsheriff.org](http://www.ircsheriff.org)

# BIAS-FREE POLICING



## Community Education and Awareness

This brochure is designed to educate the public on the issue of biased policing to include what it is and what to do if you believe you have been a victim of biased policing.

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Indian River County Sheriff's  
Office

## **Policy**

The purpose of this policy is to unequivocally state that biased policing in law enforcement is unacceptable and prohibited conduct.

Indian River County Sheriff's Office objectives include protecting the public by enforcing the law in a fair and impartial manner, recognizing both the statutory and judicial limitations of authority, while protecting the rights of all persons. 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 also are 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.

The Sheriff's Office is charged with protecting the rights, for all, regardless of race, ethnic background, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status, age, disability, political status, or any other legally protected characteristics.

Because of the nature of their business, deputies are required to be observant, to identify unusual occurrences and law violations, and to act upon them. It is this proactive enforcement that keeps our citizens free from crime, our streets and highways safe to drive upon, and that detects and apprehends criminals.

This policy is intended to assist deputies in accomplishing this total mission in a way that respects the dignity of all persons and yet sends a strong deterrent message to actual and potential law breakers that if they break the law, they are likely to encounter law enforcement officers.

## **Biased Policing**

The inappropriate consideration of specified characteristics while enforcing the law or providing police services. Specified characteristics includes, but not limited to: race, ethnic background, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status, age, disability, political status, or any other legally protected characteristics.

## **How to Report Biased Policing**

We encourage you to inform us when you have had a negative experience resulting from improper conduct or misconduct.

The Internal Affairs Unit of the Sheriff's Office investigates complaints regarding serious violations of the law or Sheriff's Office policy.

Complaints concerning less serious misconduct are referred to the member's supervisor. It is requested that the person with firsthand knowledge of the incident register the complaint in person so that the proper forms shall be completed and the facts of the complaint may be determined. Your complaint will be thoroughly investigated, and you will be notified in writing of the results.

The Indian River County Sheriff's Office is proud to serve you. Your input is valuable and we will continue to promote community oriented policing in Indian River County.

If it becomes necessary for you to register a complaint, you may be assured that it will be given a fair and thorough investigation.

If you would like to file a complaint, please download and complete the Citizen Complaint Form from our website at [www.ircsheriff.org](http://www.ircsheriff.org) and either print & mail the form back to the Sheriff's Office or personally bring the form to the Sheriff's Office Administration Building.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Indian River County Sheriff's Office, Internal Affairs Unit at:

4055 41st Avenue  
Vero Beach, Florida 32960  
(772) 978-6198

**ALL COMPLAINTS WILL BE INVESTIGATED**

