

Protects Civil Rights



Civilian oversight is a developing form of civil rights protection. Oversight practitioners are at the forefront investigating, reviewing, and auditing individual cases or patterns of misconduct, discriminatory policing practices, biased policing, illegal searches, excessive force, unlawful arrests, or use of deadly force.

Supports Effective Policing



Mutual trust and respect between police and communities is critical to effective law enforcement—distrust impedes police efforts to control crime. Civilian oversight increases public trust of police by helping to improve the quality of internal investigations and assure the public that investigations have been done fairly, thoroughly, and objectively.

Greater Accountability

The primary objective of civilian oversight is to ensure the constitutionality of police policies and practices. Oversight focuses on ensuring the preservation and institutionalization of reforms as well as assessing compliance with policies and relevant state and federal law. It aids in evaluating the integrity and effectiveness of internal accountability systems.



How Does Civilian Oversight Of Law Enforcement Help You?

Helps Manage Risk

Civilian oversight provides leadership in litigation risk management to reduce payouts and the number of claims filed. This includes evaluating law enforcement's supervision, training, compliance with policies and procedures, risk management strategies, holding police agencies accountable for progress in reducing their jurisdiction's risk and expense.



Increases Public Confidence

Civilian oversight works to increase public trust and confidence in the police by investigating, auditing, or reviewing internal police investigations, including citizen complaints and use of force incidents. Through ongoing monitoring of law enforcement agencies, including their policies, procedures, and training, public trust is improved.



Building Bridges

Policing must be responsive to community standards, values, and needs. Civilian oversight builds bridges between police and communities by engaging in long-term, concerted outreach. It also by communicating and cooperating with community and civic leaders before and after major incidents, and by assuring the public that internal police investigations have been done fairly, thoroughly, and objectively. Oversight conducts independent investigations and reviews in the event of police misconduct to ensure constitutional policing. Civilian Oversight investigators ARE NOT members of law enforcement. They are highly trained and educated professionals of your community.

