



# STANISLAUS COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY CITIZEN COMPLAINT FORM

Post Office Box 3387 - Modesto, California 95353 (209) 525-4252, Fax (209) 558-8170

**THIS COMPLAINT IS AGAINST**

Name/Title

Organization

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Telephone Number

**MY COMPLAINT AGAINST THE ABOVE IS**

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**OTHER PERSONS OR AGENCIES CONTACTED**

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**DESCRIBE THE ACTION YOU WANT THE GRAND JURY TO TAKE**

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**COMPLAINANT INFORMATION** (All complainants and communications to the Civil Grand Jury are confidential)

Name

Address

City/State

Zip Code

Home Phone Number

Work Phone Number

Cell Phone Number

The information in this form is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date

(See back for instructions)

<b>CIVIL GRAND JURY OFFICE USE ONLY</b>
<b>Date Received</b>
<b>Grand Jury Case Number</b>
<b>Committee Assignment</b>

## **Citizen Complaint Form**

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

The primary function of the civil grand jury is to provide unbiased oversight and to investigate complaints from citizens about the operations of county and city government, school districts and special districts, as required by law. The grand jury assures citizens that government is operating efficiently and in an ethical, honest manner. The grand jury investigates policies and procedures and makes recommendations to improve local governmental operations.

### **INVESTIGATIONS:**

The civil grand jury conducts three types of investigations.

- **Mandatory investigations**--those that the California Penal Code requires the grand jury to undertake.
- **Discretionary investigations**--those over which the legislature has given the grand jury jurisdiction, but has stated it is not required.
- **Citizen complaints**--those complaints within the jurisdiction of the grand jury received from a citizen. The statutes preclude the grand jury from considering complaints on matters currently before the court, matters that are the subject of litigation, matters involving agencies located outside the county, matters involving privately held companies and matters involving the fiscal and administrative operations of the Superior Court.

### **ACCEPTANCE:**

Anyone may ask the grand jury to investigate. Whether the jury chooses to investigate such a complaint is entirely in its discretion. Deciding factors include such things as determining if the complaint falls within the jurisdiction of the grand jury, if the facts warrant an investigation, whether the jury has sufficient time to conduct a proper investigation, and if a previous grand jury has already reviewed the topic of the complaint.

### **FINAL REPORTS:**

The findings and recommendations of those complaints and issues the jury chooses to study are published in a final report. Reports are distributed to public officials and to the community at large through the media, public libraries and the Internet. Statutes require the entities reported on to respond.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY:**

In all its proceedings and investigations the grand jury is sworn to maintain complete secrecy. The members of the grand jury apply the same objective standard of conduct and responsibility to all persons and entities, and are not influenced by sentiment, conjecture, sympathy, public feelings, passion, or prejudice.

### **TERM OF SERVICE:**

The grand jury's term of service begins July 1st and ends June 30th of the following year.

### **PROCESS:**

The grand jury will acknowledge receipt of your complaint. Mail the form to: **Stanislaus County Grand Jury, Post Office Box 3387, Modesto, California 95353.**

### **ACTION REQUESTED:**

Please identify the specific problem and describe the circumstances. Present your complaint with all available evidence and submit copies of relevant documents. Attach additional pages if necessary.