



SHERIFF S. DUANE LEWIS  
BERKELEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

# 2023 ANNUAL INTERNAL AFFAIRS STATISTICAL SUMMARY

**Berkeley County Sheriff’s Office Policy**

*“It is the policy of the agency to accept all complaints of alleged employee misconduct; to conduct a fair and impartial investigation of the complaint; to determine whether the complaint is valid or invalid; and, where indicated, take appropriate action.”*

**Citizen Complaints**

In 2023, There were 33 complaints filed by citizens in person or online. Some of the complaints filed included more than one deputy and more than one category of complaint. There were 43 deputies involved in the 33 complaints.

Category	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	Total
Complaints	2	1	5	0	15	0	10	0	33

*Note: In 2021, the Sheriff’s Office enabled citizens the ability to file a citizen complaint online. This increased the number of complaints filed. Fifteen of the thirty-three complaints were for demeanor and ten complaints were for minor policy violations, which were mostly in reference to believing the call was not handled properly.*

**Findings**

Year	Not Involved	Unfounded	Not Sustained	Exonerated	Sustained	Pending	Total
2023	0	5	7	13	5	3	33

Of the 33 complaints filed, only five were sustained.

**Internal Affairs Investigations**

Complaints of a serious nature are assigned to Professional Standards to investigate. Internal Affairs Investigations also include serious policy violations, reviews of accidents involving agency vehicles in which death or serious injury are involved and Officer Involved Critical Incidents.

In 2023, there were eighteen I/A investigations involving twenty-eight deputies. Some investigations included more than one category.

Category	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	Total
IA Investigations	3	7	1	0	0	6	1	0	18

**Findings**

*Internal Affairs Investigations*

Year	Not Involved	Unfounded	Not Sustained	Exonerated	Sustained	Pending	Total
2023	0	3	0	9	6	0	18

Of the eighteen internal affairs investigations, only six were sustained. The sustained investigations were for unsafe handling of a firearm, improper search, Abandonment of Duty, Improper display of a Taser, Grand Larceny and unauthorized participation in a video. Three of the Internal investigations were use of force reviews.

## Corrective Actions

Year	Counseling	Letter of Reprimand	Letter of Suspension	Demotion	Termination/Resignation	Pending	Total
2023	17	12	7	0	4	0	40

*In 2021, The Sheriff's Office began uses Guardian Tracking software to track administrative documents to include corrective action. The software allows supervisors to provide coaching documentation when necessary. Coaching entries are counted as counseling. This has increased the numbers for counseling and corrective actions.*

## Category Definitions

- I Participation in Criminal Actions on or off duty
- II Excessive Force
- III Unlawful arrest, search or seizure
- IV Harassment – Improper police action based on discrimination
- V Demeanor – Offensive or abusive language, actions which have the appearance of a conflict of interest.
- VI Serious Policy Violation – Insubordination, false statements, improper activities on or off duty, etc.
- VII Minor Policy Violations - Tardiness, uniform or vehicle appearance, etc.
- VIII Miscellaneous – All other

## Findings Definitions

- Not Involved            The alleged activity or conduct did not involve agency personnel.
- Unfounded              The allegation is false or not factual.
- Not Sustained         There is insufficient evidence either to prove or disprove the allegation.
- Exonerated              The incident occurred, but was lawful and proper.
- Sustained                The allegation is supported by sufficient evidence to justify a reasonable conclusion that the allegation is factual.