



Criminal Profiling vs. Bias-Based Profiling Understanding the Critical Difference



The Pembroke Park Police Department is committed to protecting the constitutional rights of all individuals and ensuring public safety while enforcing laws fairly and impartially. Officers must balance proactive policing with the obligation to uphold equal protection under the law and protect citizens from unreasonable searches and seizures.

Criminal Profiling

Criminal profiling is a legitimate investigative tool to identify potential suspects based on behavior, patterns, and specific characteristics linked to criminal activity. Officers apply training, experience, and factual evidence, not bias, to detect and prevent crime. Criminal profiling may consider various factors, including gender, race, or ethnicity, but only as part of a broader investigative approach.

Bias-Based Profiling

Bias-based profiling is an unacceptable and discriminatory practice in which law enforcement decisions are based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, age, or other personal characteristics. Such practices violate constitutional rights, undermine community trust, and expose law enforcement agencies to legal and reputational risks.

What Can Officers Legally Do?

Officers can detain and engage any member of the public for investigative purposes when:

- There is reasonable suspicion or probable cause that a person may have been involved in or have knowledge of a crime
- Suspicious activity is observed
- There is criminal information (such as a suspect or vehicle description) that must be acted upon.

A police officer can, and frequently does, engage any member of the public to:

- Inquire about possible criminal activities in the area
- Speak with a witness who is not suspected of a crime
- Educate people on ways to avoid or deter crime
- Render assistance in situations not involving suspected criminal activity (for example, a medical emergency)

Officers routinely engage in conversations with residents to build good relationships with the public. In these situations, you are always free to decline or end any conversation with an officer and walk away.

If you think your encounter with the police was bias-based, remain calm and ask the officer the reason for the encounter. If you are unsatisfied with the reason, respectfully ask the officer for their name and employee number and ask to speak with their supervisor.

Pembroke Park Police Department Policy

The Pembroke Park Police Department prohibits bias-based profiling in traffic stops, field contacts, asset seizures, and forfeiture efforts. Officers must always have reasonable suspicion of a legal violation before stopping, detaining, or searching an individual.

Commitment to Fair and Impartial Policing

To uphold these standards, the department has implemented the following measures:

- Mandatory training on bias-based profiling.
- Continuous supervisory oversight of traffic enforcement.
- Professional conduct and courtesy in all public interactions.
- Radio communication is required at all stops, including location and subject details.
- Annual review of citizen complaints regarding profiling.

Filing a Complaint

Citizens who believe they have been subjected to bias-based profiling may file a complaint without fear of retaliation. Complaints may be submitted:

- In person at the Pembroke Park Police Department at -
3150 SW 52 Avenue, Pembroke Park, FL 33023
- By calling the non-emergency number: (954) 374-8639.
- Online via the department's website:
<https://www.tppfl.gov/pembroke-park-police-department>.

Internal Affairs and/or the Chief of Police will review complaints, and the complainant will receive written acknowledgment and resolution within a reasonable timeframe.

The Pembroke Park Police Department remains committed to unbiased, professional law enforcement and the fair treatment of all individuals.