



OPAT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

OPAT Staff have put together a list of questions we often hear from members of the public. If your question is not answered here, please contact our office at 617-635-4224 or OPAT@boston.gov.

About OPAT

Q: What is OPAT?

A: O.P.A.T. (Office of Police Accountability and Transparency) is an office created to be separate from the Boston Police Department (BPD). It is made up of a professional staff and three panels/boards: the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency Commission; the Civilian Review Board (CRB); and the Internal Affairs Oversight Panel (IAOP).

Q: What does the OPAT Office do?

A: OPAT Office Staff look into all complaints of BPD misconduct and support the operations of the department. OPAT Staff also help the OPAT boards in carrying out their duties and create reports of OPAT’s progress and BPD’s current and proposed policies.

Q: What are OPAT’s three different boards?

A: The three OPAT boards are the Civilian Review Board, the Internal Affairs Oversight Panel, and the OPAT Commission.

The Civilian Review Board looks into civilian complaints of BPD misconduct.

The Internal Affairs Oversight Panel looks into BPD Internal Affairs decisions.

The OPAT Commission can send out requests for evidence during investigations and reviews Boston Police Department policies and procedures.

Q: How many people serve on the boards? How long do they serve?

A: There are nine (9) members of the Civilian Review Board that serve for three (3) years each. The CRB has to have at least one (1) youth member, aged 18-21.

There are five (5) members of the Internal Affairs Oversight Panel that serve for three (3) years each.



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There are three (3) members of the OPAT Commission: the OPAT Executive Director, the chair of the Civilian Review Board, and the chair of the Internal Affairs Oversight Panel. The Mayor appoints the chair of the OPAT Commission each year.

Q: When and where are OPAT board meetings?

A: Each OPAT board has to meet four (4) times a year in a public community space. OPAT board meetings are hosted by the OPAT office. All OPAT board meeting times and meeting locations will be posted to the OPAT website at <https://www.boston.gov/opat> and the Boston City Clerk's Office at <https://www.boston.gov/public-notice> at least 48 hours before the meeting.

If you would like to be added to the RSVP list to get an alert when board meeting times have been posted, please contact daniel.tillman@boston.gov.

Q: I feel like I don't hear about OPAT meetings before they happen. How can I get alerts about these meetings?

A: Please email daniel.tillman@boston.gov to be added to the RSVP list for OPAT public meetings. You will get an alert by email once the meeting notices have been posted to the Boston City Clerk's Office website. These meeting notices will be posted at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Accommodations & Language Access

Q: What if I need a translator or accommodations to be involved?

A: If you need accommodations or language services to send us your complaint or be involved in your case, please notify OPAT Staff by email or phone before you send us your complaint. This gives OPAT Staff time to contact a translator/interpreter or set up accommodations for you.

To ask for accommodations or language services by phone, please call 617-635-4224. To ask for accommodations or language services by email, please contact OPAT@boston.gov. If you need accommodations or language services so that you can be involved during an OPAT public meeting, please contact daniel.tillman@boston.gov.



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If you would like to remain unnamed during the complaint process, telling OPAT Staff that you need accessibility or language services will not take away this anonymity. You can also bring a translator of your choice with you to any meetings with OPAT Staff or boards.

Complaints & Cases

Q: How do I send OPAT a complaint?

A: There are several ways to send a complaint to OPAT for review. Members of the public can send complaints by mail, phone, online, in person at OPAT offices, or in person at designated locations within Boston. Complaints can be submitted without your name and personal information.

- ❖ Mail complaints addressed to:
 - OPAT Intake Staff
 - 2201 Washington St
 - Boston, MA 02119
- ❖ Call the OPAT Office at (617) 635-4224;
- ❖ Please note: If you have mobility problems and need an OPAT Staff member to finish the intake process where you live, please let us know by email or phone that you need this accommodation.

If you are a member of the Boston Police Department wishing to file an appeal to a decision made by IAD, you must file your appeal with OPAT Staff in writing within fourteen (14) days of the date the notification of the finding from IAD is mailed. If the appeal is sent via mail, the appeal must be postmarked within fourteen (14) calendar days from the notification of the finding from IAD is mailed. For example, if an IAD decision is mailed on December 1st, an appeal of the IAD decision would need to be mailed and postmarked by December 15th.

Q: I haven't gotten the support that I needed from OPAT. Are there other resources I can use?

A: Yes. There are other community resources and legal resources that you can use. Please note that this list does not include all of the resources you can use.

If you have sent a complaint to OPAT, then our Intake Staff will have specific resources for you based on your complaint and your needs.



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Frequently Used Resources

- ❖ Boston Human Rights Commission
- ❖ Returning Citizens Department
- ❖ Collaborative Efforts Against Sexual Exploitation (CEASE)
- ❖ Resilience & Racial Equity Department
- ❖ Boston Centers for Youth & Families
- ❖ Veterans Services Department

City of Boston Resources

- ❖ Age Strong Commission (includes food accessibility/transportation assistance)
- ❖ BOS:311 (Constituent Services)
- ❖ Boston Housing Authority
- ❖ Disabilities Commission
- ❖ Eviction Assistance
- ❖ Fair Housing & Equity (includes resources against housing discrimination)
- ❖ Food Access
 - Specific COVID-19 food resources
- ❖ Help for Residents During COVID-19
- ❖ Help Specific to Boston's Immigrant Residents During COVID-19
- ❖ Mass Unemployment Benefits
- ❖ Recovery Services
 - Recovery Resources During COVID-19
- ❖ Veterans Services

General Resources

- ❖ Black Lives Matter Boston
- ❖ Commonwealth of Massachusetts COVID-19 resource list
- ❖ Commonwealth of Massachusetts COVID-19 resources for immigrants and refugees
- ❖ Community fridges in the Greater Boston area
- ❖ Dorchester Community Care
- ❖ Greater Boston Legal Resources
- ❖ Haley House

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- ❖ [Mass Redistribution Fund recipients \(please see this list for community-specific resources\)](#)
- ❖ [Mass UndocuFund Resource Guide](#)
- ❖ [Massachusetts COVID-19 Mutual Aid Networks](#)
- ❖ [MGH's list of Boston-based mental health and trauma resources specifically for BIPOC community members](#)
- ❖ [MAS \(Muslim American Society\) Boston Mutual Aid](#)
- ❖ [Project Hope's list of resources](#)
- ❖ [Trans Equality's list of emergency fund and mutual aid resources for LGBTQ+ community members \(focus on transgender community members\)](#)