

Town of Simsbury Board of Ethics Complaint and Hearing Procedures

The Board may initiate an investigation of the facts and circumstances presented in the complaint. Upon initiating an investigation the Board would notify the person named in the complaint that it is investigating a complaint involving an alleged ethics violation.

The investigation would involve two or more members of the Board meeting and asking questions of the individuals who signed the complaint. Members of the Board could also meet with and ask questions of other people who it expects to have knowledge of the facts and circumstances surrounding the alleged ethics violation. The person named in the complaint would be invited to be present during meetings that are part of the investigation.

When the Board has a complaint before it with sufficient detail that it believes a violation of Ethics by a person within Town government has occurred, it will make a finding of probable cause. The Board may dismiss with no further action any complaint that does not contain information stating a violation of something within the Board's authority, with or without conducting an investigation.

Once probable cause has been found and only after that finding, a public hearing will be scheduled. Hearings normally will be announced at least ten days in advance but not more than thirty days after a probable cause finding. The Board can hold a hearing sooner or later than the normal timeframe, in its discretion.