

# UNDERSTANDING **FIR**

## (FIRST INFORMATION REPORT)



### Q **What is an FIR?**

First Information Report (FIR) is a written document which is prepared when the police first receive information about the commission of cognizable offenses. It contains the details of the informant, the details of the crime, and the date and time it was committed according to the informant and alike. In some cases, e-filing of the FIR may be possible. An FIR is the first step to report a crime and initiate criminal proceedings by the police. It sets the criminal law into motion.

### Q **What is a cognizable offence?**

An FIR can be registered for cognizable offenses. A "cognizable" offence covers crimes of serious nature i.e. murder, rape, rioting, etc., that is crimes where arrest can be made without warrant. A "non-cognizable" offence covers crimes that are of less serious nature i.e. cheating, fraud, forgery or creating a public nuisance, that is crimes where arrest cannot be made without warrant.

### Q **Who can file an FIR?**

An FIR can be filed by any person. He need not necessarily be the victim or the injured or an eye-witness. It is not mandatory, yet prudent to consult a Lawyer prior filing an FIR so that s/he can align your complaint into the requisite framework of an FIR for effective and speedy investigation by the police.

### Q **Where can I file the FIR?**

You can file an FIR in any police station. But it is better to go to the local police station in whose jurisdiction the crime occurred because they can swing into action quicker. If you file in any other police station the police are bound to make an entry of the complaint and send it to the concerned police station a.k.a. 'Zero FIR'. They cannot refuse to file your FIR saying that the crime did not happen in their jurisdiction.

### Q **Rights of the informant**

The informant is entitled to a free copy of the FIR from the police station. No money is required to be paid while filing the FIR or to obtain a copy of the same. It is advisable to ensure that both the copies must be stamped. The stamp on the FIR bears a (DD Number) Daily Diary Number. It is a proof that they received your complaint and retain the copy of the FIR for future reference.

*Due to fear or reluctance of people, a lot of criminal activities occurring in our society go unreported, which encourages the criminals to commit further crimes. Hence, it is very important to file an FIR (within time).*

Want to know the Remedies available in case the police officer denies registering the FIR?  
Look up Sec. 154 of CrPC or Feel free to Contact- Adv. Sayali Sawant : +91 9175902993

Above is not a legal advise to constitute a client attorney relationship. This is a personal view of the matter in issue.  
No IPR infringement is intended. For information/education purpose only.