

NEW YORK NOIR: Detective's Research Guide

Below is a (non-exhaustive) list of the most common resources for doing research on a variety of topics. Even if they don't have exactly what you need, they may be able to point you to somewhere that will.

Police (NYPD) Bureaus, Departments, Labs, and Offices

- Firearms permits: **8-1439: NYPD - License and Permits (Firearms)**
- Central police records: **7-8245: NYPD - Police Headquarters**
- Undercover operations: **3-6872: NYPD - Undercover Operations Division**
- Coroner & medical examination: **4-7384: NYPD - Chief Medical Examiner**
- Crime scene analysis: **4-5460: NYPD - Crime Scene Analysis Lab**
- Bombs and Explosives: **3-4943: NYPD - Bomb Squad**
- Local police: See local NYPD Neighborhood Precincts

Other Investigatory Agencies

- Military & Intelligence operations: **5-1254: State Department and OSS**
- Central postal investigations & records: **1-0188: U.S. Central Post Office**
- Organized counterfeiting investigations & records: **7-3449: U.S. Treasury**
- Smuggling investigations & records: **7-5838: U.S. Customs House**
- Federal crime investigations: **6-6675: FBI Field Office**
- Central arson investigations: **6-4587: FDNY Borough Command Division 1**
- Local arson: See local FDNY Neighborhood stations

Courts and Criminal Justice Records

- County Clerk Head Secretary: **7-7398: Office of County Clerk**
- Civil court records: **6-9565: Office of County Clerk (Civil Court)**
- Criminal court records: **7-3527: New York County Criminal Court**
- Ongoing & open criminal cases: **1-9971: Manhattan Prosecutor's Office**
- Information, records, gossip regarding Lawyers: **4-3094: Association of the Bar**
- Prison records: **5-5770: NYC Department of Corrections**
- Parole board and records: **5-8302: NYC Department of Probation**

Other Government Records

- Administrative Clerk for City Records Archive: **3-6861: Hall of Records**
- Birth certificates & death records: **8-9869: Registrar of Births and Deaths**
- Marriage & divorce records: **5-3799: Office of County Clerk (Domestic)**
- Welfare records: **2-8395: NYC Department of Social Services**
- Building permits & construction records: **8-5257: NYC Department of City Planning**
- Property & tax records: **6-5810: NYC Department of Finance**
- Education records: **6-4231: NYC Department of Education**
- Political office records: **3-8302: NYC Board of Elections**
- High-level city management: **4-7268: City Hall (Mayor's Office)**
- Bankruptcy filings & records: **6-6093: U.S. Bankruptcy Court**
- Restaurant Inspections & Health records: **8-8325: NYC Department of Health**
- Sport licensing, gambling: **6-8189: Athletic Commission**

Transportation, Travel, Communications

- Office of Conveyance and Correspondence: **3-7707: Office of Conveyance and Correspondence**
- Drivers License & Vehicle Registration: **1-8786: NYC Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)**
- Parking ticket records: **7-2889: NYC Department of Parking Enforcement**
- International travel records: **8-5191: Passport Bureau at Treasury Building**
- Taxi & limo licensing: **4-4843: Taxi and Limousine Commission**
- Public and Interstate Transportation: **5-2288: Port Authority of NY**
- Foreign Countries (travel, criminal histories, etc.): See Consulates
- Centralized taxi info: **4-2821: Central Cab Coordinator**
- Centralized telegram/telegraph records: **8-4019: Western Union Telegraph Building**
- Local telegram/telegraph records: See Neighborhood Telegraph Stations
- Telephone records: **4-3721: New York Bell Telephone**

General Information

- New York Public Library:
 - **6-7401: Information Desk**
 - **2-4500: Ancestry Records**
 - **4-2384: Circulation Desk**
 - **1-8347: City History**
 - **4-3737: Culture & Religion**
 - **1-6610: Fiction**
 - **5-7011: General Reference**
 - **8-5503: Maps**
 - **6-4164: Periodicals**
 - **3-7042: Rare Manuscripts**
 - **4-7981: Science**
 - **4-7978: Supernatural & Occult**
 - **2-4059: World History**

Newspaper Contacts

- **6-8666: The New York Times** (paper of record)
- **7-0584: The Daily News** (local news)
- **8-5064: The New York Post** (local news)
- **2-9326: The Daily Mirror** (gossip/sensational rag)
- **6-0755: The Evening Graphic** (scandalous trash rag)
- **6-2538: The Wall Street Journal** (financial news)
- **2-4913: Spring 3100 NYPD Magazine** (police & crime news)
- **4-1647: Vanity Fair Magazine** (high society)
- **5-3101: Harpers Bazaar Magazine** (fashion / family)
- **1-1004: The New Yorker** (high-brow essays/fiction, etc.)
- **6-8647: Art News** (art world news)
- **1-8685: Variety Magazine** (film and theater news)
- **3-6699: Billboard Magazine** (local music scene)