

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. Note that your contacts may also remind you about these when you visit them.

Police (NYPD) Office and Departments

- 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**
- Local police: See local NYPD Neighborhood Precincts

Police (NYPD) Labs

- 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**

Other Investigative 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

- Criminal and Civil court records: **6-9565: County Clerk Court Records**
- 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: 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: 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)