



Hate Crimes



Our Community...
Our Commitment...

Indio Police Department

46-800 Jackson Street

Indio, CA 92201

Phone: 760-391-4057

www.indiopd.org

What is a Hate Crime?

Hate crime is defined under California law as a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics of the victim:

- Disability
- Gender (including gender identity)
- Nationality
- Race or ethnicity
- Religion
- Sexual orientation
- Association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics

Hate crimes must include an underlying criminal act against a person (e.g. physical violence or threat of physical violence, including assault and homicide) or against property (i.e. vandalism, destruction, arson). Hate crimes can be committed against private property (such as your home, business, community center or house of worship) and public property (parks, schools, libraries, etc.).

Hate crimes can cause a distinctly harmful emotional impact that expands beyond the individual victim. These crimes intimidate others in the victim's community, making them feel isolated, vulnerable and unprotected. Hate crimes polarize communities and damage the tightly-knit fabric of our society. Because hate crimes present unique dangers and harms, they require unique tools and laws to address, combat, and prevent them.

The key element differentiating a hate crime from other crimes of a similar nature is the perpetrator's motive - why they selected the victim for the criminal act.

Distinguishing a Hate Crime

Bias motivation may be proven in a number of different ways. The factors listed below, while no exhaustive, are among the most common indicators of hate crimes:

- Visible symbols of hate (burning cross, swastika, noose, written racial or other slurs, etc.)
- Speech (epithets, slurs). It is essential that victims and witnesses provide law enforcement with the exact statements used by the perpetrator
- Victim new to the community
- Significant day for the victim's group (Martin Luther King Day, religious holiday, Gay Pride Parade, etc.)
- A history of tensions between distinct groups in the community. Suspect was involved in similar incidents previously
- Excessive and/or symbolic violence (i.e. cuts to genitals, desecration of sacred texts)



Victims of Hate Crimes

Call the Police

- If you are being attacked or it is an **emergency**, call **911**.
- To report a hate crime that has already occurred, call our **non-emergency** line at **760- 391-4051**. Please be patient if you must wait to make your report. By calling on this line, you ensure that your report is handled professionally.
- Write down exactly what was said by the offender- taunts and slurs reveal motive.
- Save any evidence – phone calls, graffiti – that may assist in prosecuting the person responsible. Take photos, preserve emails, phone, and text messages.
- Note details about the assailant's car: make, model, color, license plate number, etc..

Detailed and accurate information will help law enforcement with their investigation. The police will want to know what was said, done, or thrown, etc.; when and where the incident occurred; and what the assailant(s) looked and sounded like.



If you have any information on a hate crime and are concerned about your safety, contact **Valley Crime Stoppers** at **(760-341-STOP)**.

What Can I Expect From the Police?

We take hate crimes seriously. We will investigate an alleged hate crime in a manner consistent with the offense.

- An officer will be dispatched to the scene. If he or she believes that a hate crime has likely occurred, the officer will protect the crime scene and request a supervisor to respond to it.
- If the supervisor concurs in the officer's assessment, the Watch Commander will be notified.
- The supervisor at the scene will also direct the preliminary investigation and request the immediate assignment of follow-up investigators, if appropriate.
- If the police find probable cause to believe it was a hate crime, we will report it to the State Department of Justice and, if there is a suspect, to the District Attorney for possible prosecution.



California Attorney General's
Victims' Services Unit
(877) 433-9069
TTY: (800) 735-2929
<https://oag.ca.gov/hatecrimes>

Services Available for Hate Crime Victims

- You may be entitled to information about the prosecution of the perpetrator, and have the right to present a victim impact statement at the time of sentencing under the California Constitution's Victim's Bill of Rights.
- You may be entitled to restitution for any loss, damage or injury to you. A court may also award money to you under the Ralph Act and the Bane Act. The court may require the person who has violated your rights to pay a civil penalty (\$25,000) to you, money to compensate you for the actual harm you have suffered, and/or an additional amount of money designed to punish that person and to deter future violations of these laws.
- The court also may issue a restraining order or other type of injunctive order to protect you from further harm, and may order the person who has harmed you to pay your attorney's fees if you have hired an attorney.
- Federal law also covers hate crimes committed under specified circumstances. You can also contact the **FBI** at **858-320-1800** for assistance.