

RESOURCES

Contact 911 or go to a local hospital if you need immediate attention. To file a report, contact your local law enforcement agency.

California Attorney General's Office Victims' Services Unit: Offers crime victims and their families support and information at every stage of the criminal process. For additional information, call (877) 433-9069 or visit oag.ca.gov/hatecrimes.

California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH): State agency charged with enforcing California's civil rights laws and protecting the people from hate violence and human trafficking. DFEH accepts claims from victims of hate violence or threats of violence on account of a victim's real or perceived protected social group. For information on how to file a claim, visit dfeh.ca.gov.

San Mateo County District Attorney's Office Victim's Services Division: Offers victims support and information about their case and assists in completing California Victim Compensation Board application. For assistance call (650) 599-7479 or email victimservices@smcgov.org.

U.S. Department of Justice, Community Relations Services: Works with community groups to resolve community conflicts and prevent and respond to alleged hate crimes.

INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS

CALIFORNIA VICTIMS' BILL OF RIGHTS
(MARSY'S LAW) GIVES YOU THESE
IMPORTANT RIGHTS:

- Receive compensation for your losses. Apply for money to cover your property losses, medical expenses, lost wages, and other losses.
- Disclose how the crime impacted you. Tell the court how the crime impacted your life before the defendant is sentenced.
- Get information about the criminal case. Ask the prosecutor for certain information about the case.
- Get orders from the court. The court can grant orders that could help you, like as a protective order to keep the defendant away from you. Or you can get an order to pay attorney fees if you hired a lawyer to help with your case. The court may also order the defendant to pay you \$25,000 or more for violating your civil rights. (Talk to a lawyer about your rights under the Ralph Act and the Bane Act.)
- California law prohibits law enforcement authorities from asking individuals, including those who are reporting or are victims of potential crimes, about their immigration status, unless the information is necessary to certify the victim for a U visa (victim of crime visa) or T visa (victim of human trafficking visa).

HATE CRIMES

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS



HATE CRIME OR HATE INCIDENT?

It is important to know the difference between a hate crime and a hate incident.

A hate incident is an action or behavior motivated by hate but legally protected by the First Amendment right to freedom of expression. If a hate incident starts to threaten a person or property, it may become a hate crime. Examples of hate incidents include:

- Name-calling
- Insults
- Displaying hate materials on your own property.
- Posting hate material that does not result in property damage.
- Distribution of materials with hate messages in public places.

A hate crime is a crime against a person, group or property motivated by the victim's real or perceived protected social group.

Some signs a crime was motivated by hate:

- The offender chose the victim because he/she is a member of a protected group
- The offender chose the property because its owner is a member of a protected group
- The offender made comments (written or verbal) demonstrating a prejudice towards a protected group
- The crime occurred on a date that is important or significant for the victim's or offender's group
- There is organized hate activity in the area

HATE CRIME

In California, you can be a victim of a hate crime if you have been targeted because of your actual or perceived:

- RACE OR ETHNICITY
- NATIONALITY
- RELIGION
- GENDER
- SEXUAL ORIENTATION
- PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITY, OR
- ASSOCIATION WITH A PERSON OR GROUP WITH ONE OR MORE OF THESE "ACTUAL" OR "PERCEIVED" CHARACTERISTICS.

Please note, the above listed characteristics are examples, and other bases for actual or perceived protected social group characteristics exist.

Hate crimes can be prosecuted either as misdemeanors or felonies depending on the acts committed.

If you witness a hate crime,

CALL THE SAN MATEO POLICE DEPARTMENT AT (650) 522-7700.

WHAT TO DO

If you are a hate crime victim, you should:

- Contact your local law enforcement agency right away.
- Get medical attention (if you need it).
- Write down the exact words that were said
- Make notes about any other facts.
- Save all evidence (e.g., graffiti, eggshells, writing on victim's vehicle). If safe, wait until law enforcement arrives and takes photos.
- Get the names, addresses, phone numbers, and emails of other victims and witnesses.
- Try to get a description from any eyewitnesses of the suspect or the vehicle.
- Contact community organizations in your area that respond to hate crimes.

If you are a victim, witness, or community member:

- Speak out against hate and intolerance.
- Have community rallies to support victims.
- Offer support and help to victims.
- Ask public officials to speak out against hate crimes.
- Establish a human relations commission or hate crime network that includes law enforcement, local government, schools, religious organizations, and community organizations. Ask them to respond to hate crimes immediately when they happen and to promote prevention and awareness.