



HATE INCIDENT or HATE CRIME

A hate incident is an action or behavior motivated by hate but **legally protected** by the First Amendment right to freedom of expression. Examples of hate incidents include:

- Name-Calling Insults
- Distributing hate material in public places
- Displaying hate material on your own property

The U.S. Constitution allows hate speech as long as **it does not interfere with the civil rights of others**. If this type of speech escalates to threats against a person or property, it may become a **hate crime**.

A hate crime is a criminal act committed against a person, group or property because one or more of the following "actual" or "perceived" characteristics of the victim:
Race or Ethnicity Gender
Nationality Religion
Sexual Orientation
Physical or Mental Disability

HOW TO SPOT A HATE CRIME

- *The victim or property was chosen because they belonged to a protected group.
- *The criminal made written or verbal comments showing a prejudice.
- *The crime occurred on a date that is important for the victim's protected group.

IF YOU ARE A VICTIM

If you are in immediate danger dial 9-1-1 and advise if medical attention is needed.

Non-emergency situation that occurred in Brentwood, dial 925-809-7911.

Write down the exact words that were said and other important information.

Save any evidence (e.g. graffiti, writing on victim's vehicle.) to allow us to properly document and preserve the evidence.

If possible get a description of the perpetrator and the perpetrators vehicle (color, make, model, license plate).

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Victims have certain rights under the California Constitution's Victim's Bill of Rights Act. These include your right to:

- Apply for money to cover your losses
- Give a victim impact statement to the court
- Ask the prosecutor for certain information about the case
- Get orders from the court such as protective orders or an order to pay attorney fees
- Under the Ralph Act and Bane Act, the court may require the defendant to pay a civil penalty for violating your rights.

After reporting the crime to the police department, you may seek additional assistance from the **Contra Costa County Victim Witness Assistance Program**. A DA Victim Advocate can provide guidance through the legal system, help you apply for victims compensation, and offer resources to agencies and organizations that offer assistance and emergency services.

RESOURCES

Brentwood Police Department
Emergency 9-1-1
Non-Emergency 925-809-7911

Contra Costa County District Attorney
Central / Eastern Operations
925-957-8540

Contra Costa County Victim Witness
Assistance Program
925-957-8650
Contracosta.ca.gov

FBI- Concord Field Office
1850 Gateway Bl. #1010
Concord, CA
925-671-7330

STATE / NATIONAL

California Attorney General's
Victims' Services Unit
877-433-9069
TTY: 800-735-2929
www.oag.gov/victimservices

California Department of Fair
Employment and Housing
800-884-1684
TTY: 800-700-2320
www.dfeh.ca.gov

National Center for Victims of Crime
202-467-8700



What You Need to
Know to Protect
Yourself and Others