

How to...

REPORT HATE CRIMES



WHAT IS A HATE CRIME?

Hate crimes are crimes in Idaho that are prosecuted under the Malicious Harassment Law. (Idaho Code Section 18-7902). It is unlawful for a person to maliciously harass another person because of that person's race, color, religion, ancestry, or nation origin. It is also a crime to cause or to threaten to cause physical injury to a person or to damage, destroy, or deface a person's property. In order to be a hate crime, there has to be evidence that the person committed the crime because of the victim's race, color, religion, ancestry, or nation origin.

In addition to what is listed above, BPD will also investigate crimes targeting those based on gender and sexual identity.



WHAT IS FREE SPEECH?

Free speech is a right, protected by the U.S. Constitution, to express beliefs, thoughts and ideas without government censorship.



HOW DO I REPORT AN INCIDENT?

- Call 911 for emergencies.
- Call 208-377-6790 for non-emergencies or to reach an on duty police officer.
- Contact a Liaison Officer (see contacts on the back).



INFORMATION TO GATHER AND REPORT

- Who was targeted: name, address, contact information.
- Description of incident: dates, times, location.
- Witnesses and their contact information.
- What about the incident makes you feel it is a hate crime: specific slurs, writings, etc.
- Actions taken so far: For example, has the incident been reported and to whom?
- Response to actions so far: (if any).
- Confirm that the victim is willing to talk with police and participate in filing the report.

YES

CAN I HAVE A LAWYER, PARENT OR FRIEND WITH ME?

Yes. The official responding to the information may need to speak directly with you but you can have someone with you to help explain what happened and provide support.



FAQ IN BOISE

WHAT IF THERE IS A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN PEOPLE AND SOMEONE YELLS A RACIAL SLUR AT SOMEONE ELSE?

Although offensive, racial slurs are not illegal unless the speaker is inciting violence against another person or group of people.

WHAT IF SOMEONE SPRAY PAINTS SWASTIKAS ON MY HOME?

If the suspect specifically targeted you because of your race, color, religion, ancestry or nation origin, then it will be investigated under the Malicious Harassment law. If you were not specifically targeted for one of those things or your home was randomly chosen, then it would be investigated as general property damage.

WHAT IF SOMEONE USES SOAP TO MAKE SWASTIKAS ON MY CAR?

If the suspect specifically targeted you because of your race, color, religion, ancestry or nation origin then it will be investigated under the Malicious Harassment Law. If you were not specifically targeted for one of those things and there was no permanent damage to the car, then there may not be a crime to investigate but it can be documented as an information only report.

WHAT IF A NEIGHBOR WRONGLY ACCUSES ME OF TRESPASSING BECAUSE I'M A PERSON OF COLOR, BUT I'M ON MY OWN PROPERTY?

Although offensive, this behavior is not a crime under current Idaho law.

WHAT IF SOMEONE THREATENS ME BECAUSE I AM A PERSON OF COLOR?

If there are facts to support a reasonable belief that the person will act on a threat to harm a person or the person's property because of the person's race, then it will be investigated under the Malicious Harassment law.

WHAT IF SOMEONE YELLS AT ME TO GO BACK TO MY COUNTRY AND SCARES ME?

Although offensive, this behavior is not a crime under current Idaho law.

WHAT IF I WANT AN OFFICER TO TAKE A REPORT BUT THERE IS NO CRIME.

You can ask for a report to be taken even if the officer doesn't believe there is enough evidence to pursue criminal charges. Reports can be taken for information only.



POLICE CONTACTS

Officer Jessica Knarr, Refugee Liaison
208-570-6423
jknarr@cityofboise.org

Officer Dan Lister, LGBT Liaison
208-570-6300
dlister@cityofboise.org



Officer Blake Slater, NAACP Liaison
208-570-6400
bslater@cityofboise.org

Officer Ed Moreno, Hispanic Community Liaison
208-570-6300
emoreno@cityofboise.org ofboise.org