

What is a Hate Crime?

Michigan Law

Michigan's hate crime law is called the Ethnic Intimidation Act and was enacted in 1988. It appears at MCL 750.147b. The crime is a felony punishable by up to two years in prison and/or up to \$5,000.00 in fines.

The law also includes a provision allowing the victim to sue the offender. **Three elements** must be proven in court in order for a defendant to be found guilty: 1) The crime committed was against the victim or the victim's property; 2) The victim must be a member of a group mentioned in the statute; and 3) The crime must be partially motivated by a bias against that group.

Hate Crime: A criminal act of intimidation, harassment, physical force, or threat of physical force, whether or not performed under color of law, directed against a victim or his or her advocate or their property, motivated in whole or in part by bias against a protected group based on the real or perceived race, color, ethnic background, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability of the victim.

Bias Incident: A non-criminal act, whether or not performed under color of law, directed against a victim or his or her advocate or property, motivated in whole or in part by bias against a protected group, based on the real or perceived race, color, ethnic background, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability of the victim.

A perpetrator of a hate crime or bias incident has the intent of causing fear, intimidation, or additional pain/suffering to the victim or victim's group or has the intent of deterring the victim or victim's group from the free exercise or enjoyment of rights or privileges secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States or State of Michigan.

Resources

The Matthew Shepard Foundation is committed to promoting tolerance through education and awareness. www.matthewshepard.org

Stop the Hate! is an organization committed to providing training on hate crimes, hate and bias incident prevention, and an awareness of the problems related to hate and bias that occur on educational campuses. www.stophate.org

Teaching Tolerance offers tremendous support for teachers of all types. www.teachingtolerance.org

Growth Works - The Community Support Program (CSP) at the Canton Human Services Center is a network of non-profit agencies brought together to assist local residents with concerns that affect their quality of life. Low or no cost services are available for senior care, domestic violence, substance abuse, dispute settlement, emergency food and shelter, and individual and family counseling, among others. (734) 455-4095 www.growth-works.org

CRHCC Partner Websites

www.cantonpublicsafety.org

(734) 394-5400

www.michigan.gov/mdcr

(313) 456-3700

www.naacp.org

(313) 871-2087

www.cantonpl.org

(734) 397-0999

www.cairmichigan.org

(248) 559-2247

www.tri.org

(877) 787-4264

www.pccs.k12.mi.us

(734) 416-2700

miaahc.com

(800) 482-3602

Canton Response to Hate Crime Coalition (CRHCC)

The Partners:



Canton Public Library
connecting your community



TRIANGLE
FOUNDATION

PLYMOUTH-CANTON
Community-Schools



Mission Statement

The Canton Response to Hate Crime Coalition (CRHCC) believes strongly in the dignity of the individual. The CRHCC is committed to working to secure the right of every person in the Canton community to be free from hate crimes and bias-motivated incidents.

The CRHCC is local law enforcement, community groups, schools, faith-based organizations and the community, committed to educating our citizens about bias-motivated incidents and/or hate crimes, to respond in support of the victim(s) and the community and to mentor both victims and perpetrators during the healing process.

What the CRHCC Can Do For You:

Its goal is to raise awareness, offer support to victims and restore a sense of community when acts of hate/bias occur. This will be achieved through:

Training:

- LGBT 101
- Hate Crimes 101
- Cultural Competency
- Civil Rights
- Domestic Assault
- Racial Intimidation
- Religious Differences
- Teaching Tolerance
- Sexual Assault

Victim Support:

- Counseling Resources
- Healing

Community Support:

- Community workshops

Why Report a Hate Crime?

It is difficult to hold law enforcement accountable for crimes that occur in any community unless they are reported. There is no way of knowing that a problem exists unless it is identified and reported. Canton Police Officers are specially trained in identification and investigation of hate crimes. They understand how vulnerable victims of these crimes may feel and have the knowledge and skills necessary to help victims recover.

An even more important reason to report every hate crime is so that those responsible may be caught, prosecuted, and prevented from victimizing others.

How to Report a Hate Crime:

If you witness a crime in progress, call 9-1-1. Be sure to tell the dispatcher exactly where you are and describe what is happening. If you are reporting something that is not an emergency or that happened some time ago, call the Canton Police Department's **non-emergency telephone number 734-394-5400**.

If you are the victim of a hate crime and do not want to be alone when you make a police report, you can have someone with you - a close friend, family member, or anyone whom you feel comfortable with, however, the crime should always be reported immediately.

If you need an Emergency Response to any location – Call 9-1-1

Who are the Victims?

Anyone can become a victim of a hate crime, usually for something the individual has no control over. Gender, race and often a disability are visible indicators of one's affiliation with a particular group. However, these physical attributes can be misperceived or assumed. Religious affiliations and sexual orientation are less likely to be identified by physical appearances. Victims are often assumed to be members of a particular group.

When a hate crime does occur, every member of the race, religion, sexual orientation, or disability group involved often feels victimized. In fact, hate crimes often hurt or disrupt entire communities.

Victims of hate crimes rarely do anything to provoke an attack. They are selected simply because of who they are perceived to be.

How to Prevent Hate Crimes:

People are not born to hate. Hate is a learned behavior that begins early in life as children watch their parents and relatives as well as their peers on the playground. Hate is a product of ignorance and is fueled by fear and anger. Hate can be "unlearned" through education and awareness.

Modeling tolerance is an important form of personal leadership that can help change attitudes one person at a time. Be sensitive to jokes and remarks that demonstrate intolerance. Avoid using slang terms or other disparaging words. Set a positive example, and others will follow. Remember... hate-speech is often at the root of hate violence.

