

(continued from other side)

(1) directly or indirectly, or through third parties, manifests a purpose or intent to injure the person, property or rights of another by commission of an unlawful act;

(2) follows, monitors, or pursues another, whether in person or through any available technological or other means;

(3) returns to the property of another if the suspect is without claim of right to the property or consent of one with authority to consent;

(4) repeatedly makes telephone calls, sends text messages, or induces a victim to make telephone calls to the actor, whether or not conversation ensues;

(5) makes or causes the telephone of another repeatedly or continuously to ring; or

(6) uses another's personal information, without consent, to invite, encourage, or solicit a third party to engage in a sexual act with the person.

The United States Attorney's Office and the United States Department of Justice prosecute criminal violations of federal civil rights laws. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) investigates these criminal violations and sends reports to these two prosecuting agencies. The FBI has offices in both Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Where Can I Go for Additional Information and Help?

The Dakota County Attorney's Office Victim/Witness Program can make referrals and provide other information.

Victim Witness Program
Dakota County Attorney's Office
Dakota County Judicial Center
1560 Highway 55
Hastings, MN 55033
Phone: 651-438-4438

Other agencies with information, contact:

Minnesota Department of Human Rights
Griggs Midway Building
540 Fairview Ave N, Suite 201
St. Paul, MN 55104
Phone: 651-539-1133

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
1501 Freeway Boulevard
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430
Phone: 763-569-8000

If you are the victim of a hate crime or know someone who has been the victim of a hate crime, please report it to your local police department or the Dakota County Sheriff's Office at 651-438-4700.

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Confronting Hate Crimes

*Information You
Need to Know*



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What is a Crime Motivated by Bias?

Crimes motivated by bias, or “hate crimes”, are certain crimes that are committed against others because of the victim’s actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age or national origin.



What Types of Crimes are Included in this Definition?

Crimes motivated by bias include assaults, criminal damage to property or vandalism, and harassment or stalking crimes.



How does the Law Treat Crimes Motivated by Bias Differently from Other Crimes?

Crimes motivated by bias carry more severe penalties than the underlying crimes. For example, a misdemeanor 5th Degree Assault carries a maximum penalty of a \$1,000 fine or 90 days in jail, or both. That same crime, if motivated by bias, becomes a gross misdemeanor 4th Degree Assault, with a maximum penalty of a \$3,000 fine or a year in jail, or both.

Who Investigates and Prosecutes Crimes Motivated by Bias?

Most crimes in Minnesota are investigated by the local police department if they occurred within a city or by the county sheriff’s office if they occurred outside the city limits but within the county. A sheriff’s office may also assist with an investigation in a city upon request.

Bias crimes and other crimes are prosecuted by the county attorney or the city attorney, depending on the severity level of the crime and where the crime occurred. The county attorney prosecutes all felonies, that is, crimes for which the offender could be sentenced to more than one year in jail or more than a \$3,000 fine. The county attorney also prosecutes all offenses that occur outside of city limits. In most metro counties, gross misdemeanors and misdemeanors that occur within city limits are prosecuted by city attorneys.

What Should You Do if You are the Victim of a Crime Motivated by Bias?

Immediately report the crime to the local police or sheriff’s office. Report all information about the crime, including all facts showing that the offender was motivated by bias and the identity of any witnesses to the offense. Be prepared to give as many details as possible, and report the information while the facts are fresh in your mind.

What are the Specific Bias Crimes?

- **Gross Misdemeanor Assault in the Fourth Degree:** occurs when a person assaults another because of bias.
- **Felony Assault in the Fourth Degree:** occurs when a person assaults another because of bias within five years of a previous conviction for assault motivated by bias.
- **Gross Misdemeanor Criminal Damage to Property in the Third Degree:** occurs when a person intentionally causes damage to another person’s physical property without consent because of bias and the damage reduces the value of the property by \$250 or less.
- **Felony Criminal Damage to Property in the Second Degree:** occurs when a person causes damage to another’s physical property without the owner’s consent because of bias and the damage reduces the value of the property by more than \$250 but less than \$500.
- **Felony Aggravated Violations: Harassment or Stalking:** occurs when a person, because of bias, harasses another, that is, engages in intentional conduct in a manner that would cause a reasonable person under the circumstances to feel oppressed, persecuted or intimidated, and causes this reaction on the part of the victim by committing any of the following acts: (listed on the other side)