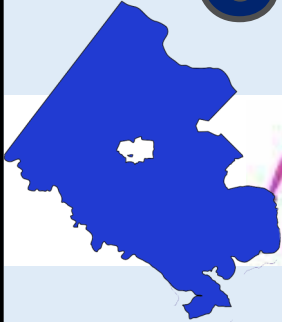


KEEP FAIRFAX COUNTY TOGETHER



REPORT BIAS CRIME

The Fairfax County Police Department recognizes the harm of bias crimes (also known as hate crimes) and bias incidents and encourages you to report them.

All bias crimes and incidents are investigated thoroughly.

If you are a victim or know of a bias crime or bias incident call:

- 911 for a crime in progress.
- 703-691-2131 to report a crime that has previously occurred.

You will be asked to provide basic information to the call taker and an officer will be dispatched to take a full report.



Fairfax County Police Department
Franconia District Station
6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria VA 22310
703-922-0889



What is Bias Crime?

The Fairfax County Police Department uses two categories:

Bias Crime (also called Hate Crime): is any unlawful action committed against a person or their property because of race, religious conviction, ethnic/national origin, disability, or sexual orientation.

Bias Incident: Is an action motivated by bias which does not meet the necessary elements for a criminal offense. Examples include: name calling, racial slurs, and disseminating racist leaflets.

The Code of the State of Virginia:

Virginia Code § 52-8.5. Requires all law-enforcement agencies to report hate crime to the Department of State Police for record keeping and analysis. It defines hate crime as:

“(i) a criminal act committed against a person or his property with the specific intent of instilling fear or intimidation in the individual against whom the act is perpetrated because of race, religion or ethnic origin or that is committed for the purpose of restraining that person from exercising his rights ... (ii) any illegal act directed against any persons or their property because of those persons' race, religion or national origin, and (iii) all other incidents, as determined by law-enforcement authorities, intended to intimidate or harass any individual or group because of race, religion or national origin.”

What is the Penalty for Bias Crime?

Virginia Code § 18.2-57 imposes additional penalties if a person intentionally selects the target of an assault (or assault and battery resulting in bodily injury) because of race, religious conviction, color or national origin. The penalty upon conviction must include confinement of at least six months, 30 days of which are a mandatory minimum.

In addition, **Virginia Code §18.2-423** makes it unlawful, with the intent of intimidating any person or group of persons, to:

- burn a cross on the property of another, a highway or other public place;
- place a swastika on any church, synagogue, building or place used for religious worship, or on any school, educational facility or community center of a religious group;
- display a noose on another's private property without permission (a Class 6 felony).

In addition, the **Federal Government** can impose penalties for violation of federally protected rights. Those rights include: (a) attending a public school or college; (b) using a facility or participating in an activity provided by a state or local government; (c) employment; (d) serving on a jury; (e) traveling in or using interstate commerce facilities; and (f) using places of public accommodation.

NOTE: The information above is intended as a general familiarization with Bias Crime. It should not be considered as comprehensive and should not be taken as legal advice.