



*"My office is dedicated to the aggressive prosecution of hate crimes. Twice recognized as the leading prosecutor's office in the nation in addressing hate crime, we are continuing and expanding that commitment through public education. Help us protect you and those you love. Report hate crimes and hate incidents. Our mission is to protect all residents of Montgomery County, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, immigration status, religious beliefs, disability, or homelessness."*

JOHN J. MCCARTHY  
State's Attorney for  
Montgomery County, Maryland

# Compensation Funds for Victims

**Partnership Fund for Victims of Hate Violence**  
240-777-8450

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/humanrights/outreach/partnership.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/humanrights/outreach/partnership.html)

**Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program (VASAP)**

240-777-1355 Weekdays

240-777-4357 24-Hour Crisis Line

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs-program/BHCS/VASAP/VASAPindex.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs-program/BHCS/VASAP/VASAPindex.html)

Email: [vasap@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:vasap@montgomerycountymd.gov)

**Maryland Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB)**

410-585-3010

<http://goccp.maryland.gov/victims/cicb>

*The Montgomery County,  
Maryland State's Attorney's Office  
has successfully prosecuted  
perpetrators of hate crimes.*



Montgomery County, Maryland  
OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY  
50 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20850  
240-777-7300

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sao](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sao)

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Montgomery County, Maryland  
OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY

JOHN J. MCCARTHY  
State's Attorney

# STOP



*What to do if you  
are a victim of or have  
witnessed a hate crime or  
bias-related incident*

# What constitutes a HATE CRIME in Maryland?

Under MD Criminal Law Article 10-301 through 10-308, a person may not:

*“Commit a crime that is motivated either in whole or substantial part by another person or group’s race, color, national origin, religious belief, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, homelessness, or disability.”*

If a person commits a crime motivated by any of the factors above, they can be charged with a hate crime. This carries a penalty in addition to the penalty for the crime committed.

## Additional Penalties for Hate Crimes

OFFENSE	PENALTY
Misdemeanor	Up to 3 Years in Prison and/or a \$5,000 Fine
Felony	Up to 10 Years in Prison and/or a \$10,000 Fine
Crime Resulting in Death	Up to 20 Years in Prison and/or a \$20,000 Fine

*The Anti-Defamation League has twice recognized the Montgomery County, Maryland State’s Attorney’s Office with its SHIELD Award for outstanding leadership in the prosecution of hate crimes.*

# What is the difference between a BIAS-RELATED INCIDENT and a hate crime?

A bias-related incident may be motivated by the same reasons as a hate crime but is different because the act did not rise to the level of a criminal offense.

It is important to report bias-related incidents to the Montgomery County Police Department to allow the authorities to determine whether the act violated the law.

# What should I do if I am a victim of, or witness a hate crime or bias-related incident?

## **REPORT IT** by doing the following:

- Dial 9-1-1 in an emergency.
- In a non-emergency, dial 301-279-8000 to contact the Montgomery County Police.
- For your own safety do not take it upon yourself to confront perpetrators.
- Do not clean up or destroy any evidence related to the crime until after the police arrive and investigate.
- Ask the police what services are available to you.
- See the Resource section of this brochure for more information.

# Resources

Attorney General’s Hate Crimes Hotline  
1-866-481-8361

Communities United Against Hate (CUAH)  
Montgomery County (MC)  
[www.cuahmcmd.org](http://www.cuahmcmd.org)

MC Department of Police  
301-279-8000  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol)

MC Office of Human Rights  
240-777-8450  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/humanrights](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/humanrights)

MC Office of Community Partnerships  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/partnerships](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/partnerships)

Maryland Attorney General’s  
Civil Rights Division  
410-576-6300 1-888-743-0023  
[www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/Civil/default.aspx](http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/Civil/default.aspx)

Maryland Crime Victims’ Resource Center  
301-952-0063 [www.mdcrimevictims.org](http://www.mdcrimevictims.org)  
Provides free legal representation and advocacy services to victims of crime.

State of Maryland  
Commission on Civil Rights  
410-767-8600 1-800-637-6247  
[www.mccr.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.mccr.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx)

For local resources, social services information and referrals:  
Dial 2-1-1 [www.211md.org](http://www.211md.org)  
Text your Zip Code to 898-211

*Services for deaf, hard of hearing and visually impaired individuals (TTY Users), please call Maryland Relay at 7-1-1.*