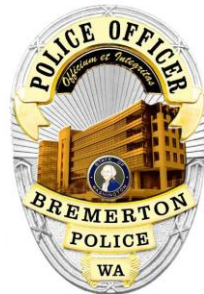


The Bremerton Police Department takes Malicious Harassment crimes very seriously and takes a hard stance against hate crimes; prohibiting any violent acts, property damage, defacing of property, intimidation and threats because of a person's personal characteristics.

Hate Crimes, Bias Crimes, and Malicious Harassment are interchangeable terms. "Malicious Harassment" is the legal term used for these types of crimes.

(RCW 9A.36.080)



# Hate Crimes

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Bremerton Police Department  
1025 Burwell Street  
Bremerton, WA 98337

## Felony Malicious Harassment (RCW 9A.36.080)

A person is guilty of felony malicious harassment if he/she maliciously and intentionally commits one of the following acts because of his/her perception of the victim's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation\*, or mental, physical, or sensory handicap:

- a. Causes physical injury to the victim or another person; or
- b. Causes physical damage to or the destruction of the property of the victim or another person; or
- c. Threatens a specific person or group and places that person or group in reasonable fear of harm to person or property. The fear must be a fear that a reasonable person (in the identity groups) would have under the same circumstances. Words alone do not constitute malicious harassment unless the context or circumstances surrounding the words indicate the words are a threat.

\*In Washington State, "sexual orientation is defined as heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, and gender expression or identity.

## Malicious Harassment Is:

The reason the suspect targeted a particular person was based on their (the suspect's) belief about the victim's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, mental, physical, or sensory handicap, homelessness, marital status, age, parental status, gender, or political ideology.

If the suspect is mistaken about the victim's status, but selected them because of the suspect's belief about the victim's status, it is still considered malicious harassment.

Hate Crimes (Malicious Harassment) can also be committed against public agencies or private institutions.

## Malicious Harassment Is Not:

If the suspect, in the process of committing another crime, calls the victim a derogatory name, it does not automatically mean it is malicious harassment.

If the suspect uses insulting or derogatory words but does not place another person in a reasonable fear of harm to their person or property, this is not malicious harassment.

## Reporting a Hate Crime:

If the incident is happening (in progress) or just happened, call 911 immediately. Even if the incident has already occurred, please call 911 as soon as possible.

Providing detailed and accurate information is very important for the responding officer(s). They will want to know what was said and done.

If you can, write down exactly what was said to you by the suspect, regardless of how offensive it is. Write down everything you saw or heard.

Save any evidence such as phone calls, e-mails or phone messages or voicemails.

If you saw the suspect, try and provide as complete of a description as you can. If the suspect was in a vehicle, note as many details as you can (make, model, license, etc.) about the vehicle.

If there are witnesses to the incident, point them out to the responding officer(s).