

Disability Hate Incident

What is a Disability Hate Incident?

A noncriminal act motivated in whole or in part by prejudice, bias, or hate towards a specific person or identifiable group of persons due to their real or perceived mental or physical disability.

In other words, is when someone does something mean and hurtful because they have a negative feeling or opinion about the person's disability.

What can be considered a Disability Hate Incident?

Specifically targeting a disabled person because they are perceived as vulnerable or "easy targets" is an expression of bias and can, therefore, be considered a hate incident.

Examples

- Workers at a care home for disabled people uttering insults about the disabled person.
- Name-calling a child because of a learning disability.
- A person with a non-visible disability is left an insulting note on their car after parking in a handicap spot
- Coworkers commenting on the appearance, mannerisms or questioning the disability of someone with an invisible disability

What is a Disability Hate Crime?

A criminal offence motivated in whole or in part by prejudice, bias, or hate towards a specific person, identifiable group of persons or property due to their perceived mental or physical disability.

In other words, a criminal act that can involve intimidation, harassment, physical force or threat and that its motive is resentment or a negative opinion for the characteristics of a person given by their disability (or presumed disability).

Examples

A group of people see someone using a wheelchair and decide to grab the wheelchair and turn it over, dumping the user on the ground. They run away laughing and shout names at the wheelchair user



The Law

According to the Criminal Code of Canada subsection 718.2 (a) (i), A sentence should be increased to account for aggravating circumstances such as evidence that the offence was motivated by bias, prejudice or hate.

Other sections of the Canadian criminal code specifically deal with hate crime: s.318, s.319. And s.430.

Unwanted jokes or insults when they occur for someone's disability are considered harassment, this is as a form of discrimination and is prohibited by the Alberta Human Rights Act.



Report it!

If you or someone else is in immediate danger call 911.

If you are targeted as a person because of your disability with a hate incident/crime or witness an incident of this nature, contact law enforcement:

Calgary	Calgary Police Service	403-266-1234
Edmonton	Edmonton Police Service	780-423-4567
Lethbridge	Lethbridge Police Service	403-328-4444
Wood Buffalo	RCMP	780-788-4040

Hate incidents against people with disabilities are critically under-reported because of challenges like the victims' potential isolation or often the close relationship to the perpetrator.

You are not alone! If you are not ready to report to the police, call the number below to receive support, information and report the incident:

In Calgary:

Voices of Albertans with Disabilities
Phone: 780-488-9088
Email: vad@vadsociety.ca

In Edmonton:

Voices of Albertans with Disabilities
406 Hys Centre, 11010 101 Street, Edmonton, AB, T5H 4B9
Phone: 780-488-9088, Email: vad@vadsociety.ca

In Lethbridge:

Southern Alberta Individualized Planning Association (SAIPA)
#210 410 Stafford Drive South (490.12 mi)
Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 2L2
Phone: (403) 320-1515
E-Mail: mail@saipa.org

In Wood Buffalo:

RMWB Pulse Line: 780-743-7000

If a hate incident or discrimination is committed by a co-worker, employer, prospect employer (application for employment), service provider, landlord, or involves the public display of materials (publication), you may be able to make a human rights complaint

For information contact the Alberta Human Rights Commission:

Confidential inquiry: (403)-297 – 6571. www.albertahumanrights.ab.ca

To learn more: <http://coalitionscreatingequity.ca/>

Document any hate incidents at:

Stophateab.ca

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