

## To AVOID Hate Crimes Communities Can:

- **Request materials and assistance to cope with changing patterns of racial and ethnic relations from US Dept. of Justice, Community Relations Service, 323 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 301, Kansas City, MO 64105. Telephone 816-374-6522**
- **Proclaim** a strong and united stand by condemning Hate Crime criminal acts before such acts occur.
- **Develop** a community plan of action.
- **Schedule** regular meetings of community leaders to address local perceptions/problems and find solutions.
- **Organize** and promote availability of community resource groups, services and people.
- **Welcome** people of differences. Concentrate on, and celebrate the benefits of local cultural diversity. Economic stability requires growth of all kinds.
- **Establish** a feeling of community and support to different ethnic groups. Promote involvement of all people for planning/participating in community activities.
- **Educate** media, law enforcement, public service, school, religious, and volunteer groups how to identify possible tensions and potential for Hate Crime situations.
- **Reward** accomplishments and positive interactions.
- **Promote** widespread knowledge and understanding of Iowa's unique Hate Crime legislation.
- **Conduct** Hate Crime training for law enforcement. Investigating, reporting and processing Hate Crimes must be legal and case follow-up appropriate.
- **Encourage** non-violent conflict resolution training at all levels of schooling.
- **Enact** local ordinances to assure equal opportunity.
- **Appoint** and support Human Relations Commission.
- **Improve** specific conditions through charter-granting and review powers. Develop wide use of policies affirming commitments to equality.

## Community Response to Hate Crimes:

- Call a press conference immediately, "This community will not tolerate such behavior!"
- Clarify the facts of possible Inflammatory Incidents.
- Do not allow rumors to run unchecked.
- Encourage solution ideas from laypersons.
- Schedule community forums.
- Maintain contact with and supply community support to victims.
- Elicit support from media and religious leaders.

## Iowa Local Commissions

Ames Human Relations Commission  
515-239-5101

Bettendorf Human Rights Commission  
563-344-4000

Burlington Human Rights Commission  
319-753-8178

Cedar Falls Human Rights Commission  
319-2432712

Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission  
319-286-5036

Clinton Human Rights Commission  
563-242-3207

Council Bluffs Human Relations Commission  
712-328-4618

Davenport Civil Rights Commission  
563-326-7888

Decorah Human Rights Commission  
563-382-3651

Des Moines Human Rights Commission  
515-283-4284

Dubuque Human Rights Commission  
563-589-4190

Fort Dodge Human Rights Commission  
515-576-2201

Fort Madison Human Rights Commission  
319-372-7700

Grinnell Human Rights Commission  
641-236-2600

Iowa City Human Rights Commission  
319-356-5022

Keokuk Human Rights Commission  
319-524-2050

Marshalltown Human Rights Commission  
641-754-5712

Mason City Human Rights Commission  
641-421-3618

Mount Pleasant Human Rights Commission  
319-385-1470

Muscatine Human Rights Commission  
563-264-1550

Sioux City Human Rights Commission  
712-279-6985

Urbandale Civil Rights Commission  
515-331-6703

Waterloo Commission on Human Rights  
319-291-4441

West Des Moines Human Rights Commission  
515-273-0633

§729A.1 Persons within the State of Iowa have the right to be free from any violence or intimidation by threat of violence committed against them or their protected characteristics:

Race  
Color  
Religion  
Ancestry  
National Origin  
Political Affiliation  
Sex  
Sexual Orientation  
Age  
Physical/Mental Disability

# NO

# HATE CRIMES

**Iowa Civil Rights Commission**  
**Grimes State Office Building**  
**Des Moines, Iowa 50319**

**515-281-4121**

**800-457-4416**

**Fax: 515-242-5840**

[www.state.ia.us/government/crc](http://www.state.ia.us/government/crc)

## **Iowa Hate Crime Laws:**

- define Hate Crimes as acts which relate to violations of an individuals rights;
- prohibit acts of assault, criminal mischief, trespass and arson
- when committed BECAUSE OF a person's;  
RACE  
COLOR  
RELIGION  
ANCESTRY  
NATIONAL ORIGIN  
POLITICAL AFFILIATION  
SEX  
SEXUAL ORIENTATION  
AGE  
PHYSICAL/MENTAL DISABILITY  
or association with someone of these traits;
- provide enforceable penalties one degree higher than the underlying offense;
- provide victims civil remedies;
- require monitoring Hate Crime violations;
- require Hate Crime in-service training for all Iowa law enforcement officers;
- require sensitivity training for law enforcement personnel and prosecuting attorneys;
- allow for local Hate Crime ordinances.

## **Civil Remedies for Hate Crimes**

§729A.5 A victim who has suffered physical, emotional or financial harm as a result of a violation of this chapter due to the commission of a Hate Crime BECAUSE OF the protected characteristics is entitled to and may bring an action for injunctive relief, general and specific damages, reasonable attorney fees, and court costs. An action must be brought within two years after the violation. In such an action the burden of proof shall be the same as in other civil actions for similar relief. This section does not apply to complaints of discriminatory or illegal practices under Iowa Code §216.

The following acts may be Hate Crimes **IF** the activity is assault, criminal mischief, trespass and/or arson and committed **BECAUSE OF** protected characteristics:

- actual force or threat of force
- setting fire to property
- some cross burnings
- being harassed because of your friends
- using telephone or other actions to cause fear
- threatening with firearms
- firing gun shots
- threatening children/pets with violence
- sexual harassment/racial slurs to cause fear/injury
- throwing rocks
- plotting injury to another
- spray painting epithets/swastikas
- damaging/destroying another's property
- interrupting religious/political/ethnic/social groups
- distributing material intended to cause riot, threaten violence
- trespassing while distributing materials

## **Local Hate Crime Ordinances:**

§729A.3 This chapter does not prohibit political subdivisions from enacting ordinances which are consistent with this chapter. Local ordinances reasonably regulating the time, place, or manner of the exercise of constitutional rights are permissible.

## **Facts for Victims and for People Helping Victims:**

1. Report possible Hate Crimes to police.
2. Consider obtaining a restraining order.
3. Convicted persons may be responsible for damages caused by Hate Crimes.
4. Services of state agencies are free.
5. You may need a private attorney.
6. There are time limits for filing actions.
7. Get help immediately after an incident!
8. Retaliating (getting even) with people who pursue lawful rights is illegal.

**A person claiming to be a victim of a Hate Crime, or helping a victim, should follow ALL these steps:**  
*(If one of these agencies is unable to help you, continue following recommended procedures.)*

1. **Call local law enforcement immediately!** A quick response is necessary. The first officer to arrive should look for motives to determine whether a Hate Crime occurred.
2. **Preserve all physical evidence.** Save items involved and any damaged property; take photographs; be able to describe perpetrators and witnesses; write accurate account of incident; and keep a log of continuing events.
3. **Call Federal Bureau of Investigation**, nearest local office, or **402-493-8688** Omaha Field Office. The FBI should be notified if there is use of force or threatened use of force related to Fair Housing rights.
4. **Call US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** National Discrimination Hotline, **1-800-669-9777**, **TDD 1-800-927-9275**. If Hate Crimes occur in area of housing because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, or handicap; victims may be able to file appropriate complaint under Federal law Title VIII. Ask about prompt judicial action for injunction.
5. **Call US Department of Justice**, Washington, D.C., Criminal Section **202-514-3204**, or Housing and Civil Enforcement Section **202-514-4713**.
6. **Call Iowa Department of Public Safety, 515-281-5138** to report Hate Crime violations.
7. **Call Iowa Attorney General's Office, 515-281-5044**. Ask about Iowa victim's assistance program.
8. **Call local Human Rights Agency** if available. Check City Hall or local telephone directory.
9. **Call the Iowa Civil Rights Commission**, toll free in Iowa **1-800-457-4416** or **515-281-4121**. If Hate Crimes occur in areas of housing, employment, credit, public accommodations or education they may also be discriminatory acts under Iowa Code §216. Complaints must be filed within 300 days of the incident.