

Hate Crimes

318.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide members of this department with guidelines for identifying and investigating incidents and crimes that may be motivated by hatred or other bias.

318.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Pennsylvania Hate crime - Crimes motivated by prejudice based on the actual or perceived race, color, religion or national origin. (18 Pa.C.S. §2710.)

Federal Hate crime - Crimes motivated by prejudice based on the actual or perceived race, color, religion or national origin, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or disability of the victim are prohibited under federal law. (18 USC § 241, 18 USC § 245, 18 USC § 247, 18 USC § 249, 42 USC § 3631)

318.2 POLICY

The Plymouth Township Police Department recognizes and places a high priority on the rights of all individuals guaranteed under the state and federal constitution and incorporated in state and federal law.

318.3 PREVENTION AND PREPARATION

While it is recognized that not all crime can be prevented, this department is committed to taking a proactive approach to preventing and preparing for likely hate crimes by:

- (a) Making an affirmative effort to establish contact with persons and groups within the community who are likely targets of hate crimes, and forming networks that address prevention and response.
- (b) Providing victim assistance and community follow-up or identifying available resources to do so.
- (c) Educating community and civic groups about hate crime laws.

318.4.1 DETECTIVE DIVISION RESPONSIBILITIES

If a hate crime case is assigned to the Detective Division, the assigned investigator will be responsible for:

- (a) Coordinating further investigation with the District Attorney's Office and other appropriate law enforcement agencies.
- (b) Maintaining contact with the victim and other involved individuals, as needed.
- (c) Maintaining statistical data and tracking of suspected hate crimes, as indicated or required by state law.

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318.5 TRAINING

All members of this department should receive training on hate crime recognition and investigation.