

**Burlington Police  
Department  
Reporting Contacts**

**Emergency:  
911**

**Telephone:  
(802) 658-2700**

**Fax:  
(802) 865-7579**

**Address:  
1 North Avenue  
Burlington, VT 05401**

**The Burlington Police Dept.  
encourages anyone who witnesses  
criminal or suspicious activity to  
report it to the police.**

**These reports can be made in a  
number of ways. In progress crimes  
should be reported immediately via  
911.**

**Suspicious activity in your  
neighborhood can be reported  
immediately or by use of an internet  
tip line to the Burlington Police.**

**This information is used in many  
different ways by the police. Some  
information provided may not be  
immediately acted upon by the  
police but used as intelligence  
helpful in building a case.**

**The Burlington Police Department  
will make every effort to ensure that  
your identity remains unknown and  
anonymous. The Department is  
interested in your information, not  
your name if you so desire.**

**Burlington Police Department**

One North Avenue  
Burlington, VT 05401  
Phone (802) 658-2704

**BURLINGTON POLICE  
DEPARTMENT**

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*Citizen's Guide to Reporting Crime*



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Below you will find some of the most frequently asked questions we encounter regarding reporting crime and other topics. If you have additional questions not addressed here, please feel free to contact us.

## IF I CALL THE POLICE, WHAT KIND OF INFORMATION WILL I BE ASKED FOR?

You will initially be asked what you are reporting, where it occurred and when, your name, address, and contact phone number, and possibly other questions depending on the nature of the event you are calling about.

## WHAT IF I WANT TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS?

It is possible to report events anonymously, but it makes it more difficult for police to investigate. If you would like to keep your information private, you can tell the dispatcher or officer you are speaking to and further ask that they not put your information over the radio. It is helpful, however, if you provide contact information so that the officer can speak with you at a later time by phone or at a private location for additional information.

*“Without citizen reports of crime and suspicious activity, investigations and intervention into ongoing problems is much more difficult.”*

## I KEEP CALLING THE POLICE ABOUT DRUG DEALING IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD BUT NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE!

Often reports that are received regarding drug activity are used to further ongoing investigations. These cases can take months and sometime years to finalize. We ask that residents continue to call us with information about these activities even if they have called before. The infusion of updated, ongoing information into investigations is critical to their success. Due to the confidential nature of these investigations, it is often impossible for investigators to provide feedback directly to callers.

## I’M CONCERNED THAT BY CALLING THE POLICE I MAY BE TARGETED FOR RETALIATION

While it is common for retaliation to be portrayed in the movies, it is less common in real life. If you are concerned, however, you can express your concern to the investigating officer and they can offer some safety tips. As indicated previously, your information can be taken anonymously.

## I WANT TO “PRESS CHARGES” AGAINST SOMEONE. HOW DO I DO THAT?

People frequently ask if they can “press charges” against someone. Individuals cannot. The State of Vermont, through a State Attorney, makes a decision whether to bring a criminal charge against an individual. In some cases, the State Attorney may bring a charge even if the victim is not cooperative or does not want the offender charged.

## I CAN’T REMEMBER WHAT OFFICER I SPOKE TO?

We strongly recommend that you ask for the Officer’s business card, or write down the Officer’s name and badge number. If you did not get the Officer’s name, you can contact the Records Division at (802) 540-2370, or the Officer in Charge at 540-2400.

