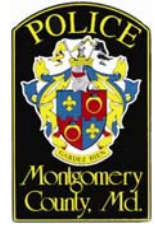




When to Call the Police



What is considered suspicious? The best answer is whenever you feel that something just isn't right. There are two numbers to call for the police. 911 is the designed for emergency. This means that you need an immediate police response for something that is in progress or something of a serious nature that just occurred. The second number is 301-279-8000 to report things that have occurred earlier or of a minor nature.

Things that are considered suspicious:

- Any stranger entering your neighbor's unoccupied house could be a burglar
- Offers of merchandise at ridiculously low prices from the back of a vehicle
- Anyone peering into parked vehicles
- Anyone entering or leaving a business after hours
- The sound of breaking glass or loud explosive noise
- Persons loitering around schools, parks or secluded areas
- Persons loitering around that are not familiar to the area
- Someone going door to door in the neighborhood
- Someone in an enclosed backyard
- Any vehicle parked with one or more occupants
- Vehicles loaded with valuables parked in front of a closed business
- Persons being forced into vehicles
- Open or broken doors/windows at a business or residence
- A person of diminished physical or mental capacity

Once you call the police, there are three ways to report a crime. The first is to give your name and number and have the officer respond to see you. This way you can speak to the officer, voice your concern and received follow-up information. The second is to be the reluctant complainant. The call taker will take your name and number however the information is not put out over the air, but available to the officer in case further information is needed. The officer will not come see you. The third was is to be anonymous. If you are anonymous, you will not see an officer or learn the outcome of your call.

Understand that in most cases, depending on the nature of the crime, where the officer doesn't have a known complainant, the call is not given as high of a priority.

We ask that you call the police each and every time you observe a suspicious situation.

Remember the EMERGENCY # is always 911.

The non-emergency number is 301-279-8000.