



## A Student's Guide to Police Practices



Office of the Independent Police Auditor  
City of San José



A Student's Guide to Police Practices  
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The Office of the independent Police Auditor is a City of San José agency. It is not part of the police department but reports to the Mayor and City Council. The mission of the Office of the Independent Police Auditor (IPA) is to provide independent oversight and instill confidence in the complaint process through objective review of police misconduct investigations.

By providing outreach to the San José community and making thoughtful policy recommendations to the Police Department, the IPA works to promote accountability and to strengthen the relationship between the San José Police Department and the community it serves.

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# Speak Up and Know Your Rights

## A Student's Guide to Police Practices



Office of the Independent Police Auditor  
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**Concerns about a San José Police Officer?**  
**¿Problema con un oficial de policía de San José?**  
**Bạn có vấn đề với cảnh sát San José?**



**Call 408.794.6226**  
**Llame al 408.794.6226**  
**Hãy gọi 408.794.6226**

Independent Police Auditor of San José  
Auditor Independiente de la Policía de San José - Thanh Tra Cảnh Sát Độc Lập của Thành Phố San José

## A Note to our Readers:

We hope that the information in the Student's Guide to Police Practices (Guide) will help you make informed decisions if you come into contact with the police. The Guide describes some of your basic legal rights, common crimes, and how to avoid becoming the victim of a crime. The Guide cannot replace legal advice from a lawyer. We hope you will find it helpful and that you will let us know if you have any questions. You can call the Office of the Independent Police Auditor at (408) 794-6226, or send an email to [ipa@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:ipa@sanjoseca.gov). Our website is: [www.sanjoseca.gov/ipa](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/ipa). You can also find us on Facebook under Office of the Independent Police Auditor, San José and at Twitter: <https://twitter.com/sanjoseipa>.

### To Youth

This guide discusses serious issues that youth may be confronting now or in the future. Many of these topics may be difficult to talk about. Talk about these issues, learn from this book, and have conversations about these topics. Get in touch with the organizations listed in the Youth Resource section of this guide. They have experienced people who are committed to helping young people overcome their problems. The knowledge and insight you will gain from this guide will help you build a positive future.

### To Parents and Guardians

We hope you will find this Guide useful in understanding common issues that arise when young people come into contact with police officers. Such interactions can be intimidating and confusing. It is important that you and your son or daughter understand basic legal rights and are familiar with common police practices. As you educate your young person on these topics, we hope you will include the suggestions offered on the following pages. Many times, a young person's behavior can influence the outcome of the police interaction. We strongly encourage the public to demonstrate respect for police officers.

If a young person or parent/guardian believes that police misconduct\* has occurred, a complaint can be filed with our office, the Office of Independent Police Auditor (IPA) or with the San José Police Department's (SJPD) Internal Affairs unit. We have also included community resource information at the back of the Guide. This list of community services may be helpful to you. If you have questions or comments about anything in the Guide, feel free to call the Office of the IPA at (408) 794-6226 or email us at: [ipa@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:ipa@sanjoseca.gov).

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\*Police misconduct refers to inappropriate or illegal actions taken by police officers in carrying out their duties.

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## POLICE COMPLAINTS

### When to file:

If someone believes a San José police officer did his or her job improperly, you have the right to file a complaint. You can also file a complaint if you think the police department has a policy that should be changed.

### How to file:

A person may contact the Office of the Independent Police Auditor (IPA). The IPA Office is **NOT** part of the police department. The Office of the Independent Police Auditor (IPA) is a City agency where you can file a complaint about a police officer in San José. The IPA monitors investigations and reviews them when they are done. To learn more about the IPA office please visit us [sanjoseca.gov/ipa](http://sanjoseca.gov/ipa).

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Complaints can also be filed with the San José Police Department, Internal Affairs Unit (IA). The Internal Affairs Unit is part of the San José Police Department. When someone files a complaint with them or with the Office of the Independent Police Auditor (IPA), the unit investigate the complaint.

777 North First Street, Suite 666 San José 95112  
Ph: (408) 277-4094, Fax (408) 277-3920  
[www.sjpd.org](http://www.sjpd.org)

### Misconduct Complaints

Any member of the community can file a complaint about any concerns they have about San José Police conduct. Some examples include:

- Officer yelled, was rude, made judgmental comments
- Officer used too much force during an interaction – (For example: punching/kicking, using the baton, Taser, etc.)
- Officer-involved shootings

- Officer treated someone differently based on race, ethnicity, gender identification, sexual orientation, mental health status, religious beliefs, or age
- Officer made someone turn off his or her cell phone while recording a police interaction
- Officer unlawfully searched someone's pockets, car, or home
- Officer did not provide someone with their name and badge number when requested
- Officer detained someone for an unreasonable amount of time
- Officer was on a cell phone talking and driving
- Officer exceeded the speed limit without lights and siren
- Officer did not provide a translator during an interaction (and translation was needed)

### Helpful Information:

- You don't need your parent or guardian's permission to file a complaint.
- You may file by phone, email, mail, fax. You can also file in-person at the office of the Independent Police Auditor (IPA).
- It is helpful to provide the date, time, and place where the incident happened.
- You do not have to have the officer's name or badge number to file a complaint.
- If you have criminal charges related to the incident that are pending, we suggest that you speak to an attorney before filing a complaint.
- Although you have one year from the date of the incident to file a complaint, you should file it as soon as possible.
- You can file a complaint on behalf of someone you know. In other words, if you witness something as a bystander, hear about something online or in person, or read about something in the newspaper and you believe the officer did their job the wrong way you can file a complaint. **IT DOES NOT NEED TO HAPPEN TO YOU.** For example, a parents can file a complaint on behalf of their child even if they were not present during the police interaction and only have the side of the story from their child.

## No Retaliation

The City of San José has a policy against retaliation. A community member should notify our office as soon as possible if they believe an officer is retaliating against them for filing a complaint.

## IPA Presentations

The IPA office offers presentations to schools, churches, neighborhood groups, business associations, community centers, local agencies, and community organizations. A youth-focused presentation is available that includes discussion of the topics presented in this guide. For more information, please call (408) 794-6226 or email [ipa@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:ipa@sanjoseca.gov).

## Respect

Everyone deserves to be treated with respect. In every situation, it's important to treat others the way you would like to be treated. This is true with police, teachers, friends, or anyone you encounter. Even if someone is not being respectful toward you, it's best to remain calm and resist the urge to lose your temper, call him or her names, or start fighting. Losing your temper may make the situation worse and could result in criminal charges, physical injury, or death. Respect yourself, consider your options and make positive choices.

## Suggestions - If you are contacted by the police:

- Be respectful. This includes your attitude and the way you act. Don't raise your voice. Treat the officer the way you would like to be treated.
- Remain calm.
- Follow directions. Don't resist arrest, pull away from an officer, or run away.
- Failure to follow an officer's directions can lead to arrest, serious injuries, or death. This is not the time to challenge the officer. You can file a complaint about your interaction with the officer with the Independent Police Auditor and/or argue your case in court.
- Do not lie. It is better not to say anything to a police officer than to lie. Lying to an officer can be a crime. If the officer finds out you lied, s/he probably won't believe anything else that you say and may become angry.
- You can ask an officer for their name and badge number.
- Keep your hands open and where the officer can see them. Don't put

your hands in your pockets or in your belt or waistband unless the officer gives you permission. These movement may lead an officer to think you have a weapon.

- If in a vehicle when you have a police contact, do not reach for anything without first informing the officer.
- Never hit a police officer. Hitting or pushing a police officer is a crime.



## Police Practices

### Police Officers at School

The police department has police officers that work at some San José schools. They patrol the school campus to provide safety and investigate crimes. You may have seen them at your school — taking reports, breaking up fights or investigating crimes. They make sure that people who come on school property belong there. Sometimes, these officers provide security for school activities like dances, plays and sporting events. Usually, they wear police uniforms or polo shirts / jackets that say “SAN JOSÉ POLICE.” They are at your school to conduct official police business. Please be respectful of them and follow their instructions. Remember, the officers are there for your safety. Let them know if you hear about anything that may cause someone to get hurt. If you believe an on officer on campus committed misconduct, you can file a complaint with the Office of the IPA.

### Consensual Encounters & Detentions

**Consensual Encounter:** A “consensual encounter” is when an officer contacts you with no reason to suspect you are doing anything wrong and you speak

to the officer voluntarily. During such a contact, the police officer may ask for basic information like your name, address, date of birth, and probation status. An officer may contact you to see if you are okay (called a welfare check). You are free to leave during a consensual encounter.

**Detention:** If the officer says you're NOT free to go, you are being detained. An officer may detain you in order to investigate a reasonable suspicion that a crime has occurred. The officer may write your name and other information on a yellow card.

- This doesn't mean you're under arrest. The information is sometimes used to track investigations.
- The officer may take a picture of you or your tattoos. The officer can do this if you give him/her permission or if the officer is investigating a specific crime.
- The officer may also do a "pat-down" of your clothing if the officer suspects you are hiding a weapon. The officer does not need your permission to do this search of your clothing.
- Male officers can pat-down females and female officers can pat down males.
- A pat-down may lead to a more involved search if the officer feels something that might be a weapon, contraband, or if you are placed under arrest.

### Interview of Youth at School

A police officer can interview a student at school if the student is suspected of committing or witnessing a crime. A parent's permission is not required for such an interview. As stated above, you can ask the police officer if you are free to go. If not, the officer must read you your rights. Then you have a choice to: (1) you can answer questions or (2) you can ask to have a lawyer and STOP answering questions until you have legal representation.

Once the investigation is done, if you are not being taken into custody, you should be allowed to leave. The officer should not keep you there for a long time against your will just to take photographs or ask you questions about some other unrelated matter. If a student is removed from school by the police, the school must immediately contact the parent, guardian or responsible relative, unless child abuse is suspected. You can also check with your school district for more information about school policies regarding police interviews and interactions on school campus.

If you believe what is happening is wrong, don't challenge the officer or run. Those actions may lead to you being arrested. You can always ask for your parent or guardian to be contacted and present.

If you think an officer has done something wrong to you (such as used force, broke a rule, was disrespectful) or someone else, you can file a complaint with the Office of the IPA and tell your attorney.

If the officer forms a reasonable belief that you were involved in a crime, also known as *probable cause*, you may be arrested or taken into custody. Ask if you are under arrest. If you are, then ask the reasons why. You have the right to know this, but use a respectful tone of voice.

You have the choice to not answer any questions about the alleged crime. You can exercise that choice by letting the officer know you want an attorney present before answering any questions. You can exercise that choice by clearly letting the officer know. Saying something like maybe I should talk to a lawyer is NOT clear enough.

## Miranda Rights & Arrests

*"You have the right to..."*

*When should officers read you your rights? On TV, it seems the police give people their Miranda rights every time they are contacted or arrested. In reality:*

- if you're **under** 18 and you're taken into temporary custody or arrested, the police must read you your Miranda rights within a reasonable amount of time;
- if you're **over** 18, they don't have to read you your rights unless you are under arrest (not free to leave) AND you are going to be questioned about a crime. Police officers can ask you general questions such as your name, address, and date of birth without reading you your Miranda rights. When you are read your Miranda rights, the officer should say the following things, although not necessarily in these words:
  - You have the right to remain silent.
  - Anything you say can be used against you in a court of law. That also includes things you may say to a friend, bystander, or person.
  - You have the right to talk to a lawyer and have him/her present with you while you're being questioned.

- If you cannot afford to hire a lawyer, one will be appointed to represent you. Do you understand?

### What's the point of reading you your Miranda rights?

The point of the Miranda rights is to let you know that what you say can be used against you in court – *so be careful*.

- If you are not sure you should talk, clearly tell the officer you wish to remain silent and not speak to the police.
- You can also tell the police officer that you wish to speak to your attorney first.
- If you understand your rights, you may choose to speak to the officer but understand what you say may be used against you. The officer may take notes of your statement or it may be recorded without your knowledge.
- It is okay to provide basic information like your name, address, or date of birth.

### What happens if you are arrested or taken to a police station?

- If you are a minor (under the age of 18): California law requires that the officer immediately make a reasonable effort to contact your parent or guardian if the officer takes you into custody.
- Under Miranda, you have the right to remain silent and to talk to a lawyer before you talk to the police. You must ask for the lawyer.
- You have the choice to talk to the police or tell them that you wish to remain silent and want a lawyer, but you should provide them with your name, date of birth, address, and other identifying information when asked. It is a crime to give an officer false information.
- *You have the right to ask to see a lawyer.* If you cannot pay for a lawyer, the court will assign one to represent you. This lawyer is called a *public defender*.
- After talking to a lawyer, you and your lawyer can decide on the best way to handle your case.

In Santa Clara County you may call the public defender office by calling (408) 299-7040.

- If you are in custody (Juvenile Hall) you will meet your public defender at your first court appearance That usually happens within three working days of your arrest. After being booked, or within one

hour after your arrest, you have the right to make two free local phone calls to: (1) a lawyer and (2) a parent, guardian, or responsible relative.

- Keep in mind that if you call your boyfriend or girlfriend, that is one of the two phone calls you will be permitted to make. Use good judgment. Try to reach a parent or adult who can help you.
- Assume that telephone calls from a jail, police station or juvenile hall are tape recorded, even calls to your parents. Only calls to your lawyer are confidential.
- Anyone may be listening to your conversation.
- Once you're released from custody, only talk to your lawyer about your case. It's not a good idea to discuss it with other people. Statements you make could be used against you in a court action.

## Warrants & Searches at School Arrest Warrants

*What's an arrest warrant?* It's an order signed by a judge to take you into custody.

- It does not expire unless it's taken back by the court or you're arrested.
- If you think there's a warrant for your arrest, call your local police or sheriff's department and ask how to take care of it. Follow up right away.
- One way to avoid a warrant is to go to court whenever you're scheduled.
- If you don't show up and you didn't have permission from the court ahead of time, a warrant will be issued for your arrest.
- Calling the court or writing a letter is not enough.
- You need a written notice from the court that your date has been rescheduled or that you don't have to appear.

*What is a search warrant?* It is an order signed by a judge that gives officers permission to search certain places for specific items. Officers must give you: (1) a copy of the warrant, and (2) a list of any items they take.

If you are on probation or parole and have a search condition, an officer doesn't need a warrant to search you, your car, or your home.

## Searches on Public School Campuses

In most cases, police officers need a search warrant based on probable cause in order to search you, your house, or car.

- In a school, school officials, teachers, or officers don't need a search warrant if they have a special need to conduct a search or suspect criminal activity. Searches can be done in schools based on *reasonable suspicion*.
- This means that if a teacher or school administrator suspects that you are breaking a law or school policy, you may be searched.
- If your personal property (like your backpack, locker, purse, or car) is on school property, it can be searched.
- If you are on probation or parole and has a search condition, an officer does not need a warrant to search you, your car, or your home.

## Traffic Stops

Traffic stops are one of the most dangerous situations for police officers, especially at night. In addition to driving violations like speeding or running a red light, police officers can legally stop cars for many other reasons. The list is too long to include in this guide but here are some examples:

- Not wearing a seat belt
- Throwing objects from a car
- Having only one license plate (you must have 2 plates, one in the front and one in the back)
- Having cracks in the windshield
- Illegally modifying the vehicles (loud exhaust, tinted windows, etc.)
- Covering both ears with headphones
- Having dim or broken tail and/or signal lights
- If you are under 18 years old it is against state law to talk on the phone while driving — *even if you are using a hands-free device*. The only exception is calling 911.
- No matter what your age, it is against state law to send, receive or even read text or any other written messages while driving.
- Officers can also stop you if they have: (1) a warrant for your arrest (2) suspicion you're involved in a crime, or (3) probable cause to arrest you. The suspicion or probable cause can be based on what officers have seen or on information from witnesses, or other official sources. *For example, if the police radio puts out an emergency announcement that a dangerous suspect is fleeing in a bright yellow van, and you're driving a bright yellow van in that neighborhood, you'll probably be stopped on suspicion that you may be the suspect.*

## What happens if you are stopped while driving a car?

- Keep your hands on the steering wheel where the officer can see them. Follow the officer's instructions.
- When asked, show your driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance, tell the officer where they are and follow the officer's instructions.
- The officer can order you to stay inside or to step out of the car while the officer decides if you will be given a ticket.
- This is for officer safety and you should obey these orders.

Normally, your car can't be searched without your permission or a warrant but there are *exceptions*. For instance:

- the officer has reasonable suspicion (like the smell of marijuana or visible empty beer cans)
- you are placed under arrest
- it's a condition of your probation or parole (or your passenger's)
- your car is going to be towed ("inventory search")

### Search Conditions

If you or a passenger in your car is on probation or parole, officers can stop you. If your probation or parole order contains a "search clause," they can search you as a condition of your probation or parole. They can usually search your car as well. If you're not on probation or parole but your passenger is, they can only search the areas of the car that were in your passenger's reach.

Unless one of the above exceptions is met, the officer needs your consent or a warrant to search your car.

- Be respectful toward the officer but clearly let him/her know if you object to the search.
- You can say, "Officer, I do not agree to this search."
- Do not physically resist, yell, or insult the officer.
- You can always file a complaint with the Office of the IPA or argue your case in court.

If you are given a citation (ticket), you should *sign it*.

If you don't sign it, *you can be arrested*. Are you admitting you're guilty? *NO!* By signing the ticket you're just promising to appear in court. Remember, court is the place to fight a ticket.

## Driving Under the Age of 18

Driving in California while under the age of 18 is controlled by very specific laws. For instance, there are restrictions on teens driving with other teens in the car. For further information, call your local California Department of Motor Vehicles or go to their website at [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov).

## Zero Tolerance for Drinking and Driving

- California law is very clear: if you're under age 21 and driving a car with any alcohol in your body you will be arrested.
- Your driver's license will be suspended for 12 months – longer if this has happened before
- At the scene, the officer may order you to walk a straight line, do some counting, follow his finger with your eyes or blow into a small device called a P.A.S.
- If you are arrested for drinking and driving, your driver's license will be suspended if you refuse a blood, urine, or breathalyzer test during booking.
- No matter what your age, it is illegal to drive with any open containers of alcohol in the car.
- If you're under age 21, it's illegal to have even a closed container in the car with you – unless your parent or legal guardian is with you.
- Driving under the influence of marijuana or any other drug is also against the law.

## What if you are caught driving a car without a driver's license?

If you have a driver's license or a learner's permit, you must have it with you any time you are driving a vehicle. If you're stopped and you don't have your license or permit with you, you may receive a citation and/or not be allowed to drive away. The vehicle may be towed. It's up to the officer. You can ask the officer for permission to call someone with a valid license to come drive the car home. The person would have to get there quickly, usually within 20-30 minutes.

If you have never been given a driver's license by the DMV or if it's been suspended, driving without a license is more serious. You'll be given a ticket and you may be arrested. Your car may be towed or the officer may let you call someone else who has a license to drive the car home. The decision is up to the officer.

- If your car is towed, it can cost a lot of money to get it back.
- You will likely be required to go to court.
- If your vehicle is towed by the police in San José, you may want to call (408) 277-5429 for information about a tow hearing

## Profile Stops Discrimination

What is profiling? When an officer bases the decision to stop someone mostly on how the person looks, their race, skin color, without really focusing on what the person did, the officer may be making a what some people call a "profile stop."

What is discrimination? If an officer treats a person differently than the officer treats others because of the person's race, skin color, religion, age, sex, disability, or sexual orientation, it is discrimination. *For instance, if you're the only boy with a group of girls and you're all jaywalking, but you're the only person who gets a ticket for jaywalking, it may be discrimination.*

The San José Police Department has rules against "bias based policing" which includes profile stops and discrimination. If you feel that you were improperly stopped, you may file a complaint with the Office of the IPA so your complaint can be investigated.

## Common Laws and Policies

### Common Crimes

This section describes common crimes. Some of the crimes are misdemeanors that carry fines and possible jail time. Other crimes are more serious and have stronger penalties. Those are called felonies. The punishment may be increased if you have been convicted of other crimes in the past, if this charged crime is gang-related, or if it is alleged as a "hate crime."

## Bicycles

A bicyclist must follow most traffic laws, including: stopping at stop signs, signaling when turning, riding with the flow of traffic, and giving pedestrians the right-of-way, etc. Other things to remember:

- If you are under 18, you must wear a helmet
- You must sit on a regular, attached seat. Never sit on someone's handlebars, center frame, or over the rear tire.
- Do not wear ear phones while cycling.
- Drivers may not see you so always watch for traffic and stay alert
- If you are riding at night, you should wear reflective clothing, reflector or reflective tires.
- You must use a front light, red rear reflector, pedal reflectors, and side reflectors.
- In certain areas of San José it is illegal to ride a bike on the sidewalk. Look for signs.

## Skateboards

In California, you must wear all of the following items to ride a skateboard:

- a safety helmet,
- elbow pads, and
- knee pads.

Skateboard parks in San José include:

- Lake Cunningham, 2305 S. White Road (southeast corner inside of park)
- Stonegate, Gassman Drive & Apollo Drive (behind the school)
- Platta Arroyo, King & McKee Roads (across from E. St. James St.)
- Great Oaks, Snow & Battle Dance Drives (between basketball court & basketball field)
- Roosevelt, Santa Clara & 20th Streets (back of parking lot on 21st St., past hockey rink)
- Mayfair, 2039 Kammerer Avenue

## Safely Surrendered Baby Law

The Safely Surrendered Baby Law (also known as the Safe Haven Law) allows a parent who is not able to care for an infant to surrender the newborn to a Safe Haven location within 72 hours of birth. As long as there are no signs of abuse or neglect, the parent will not be arrested for abandoning the child. In

Santa Clara County, a newborn may be surrendered to any on-duty firefighter or hospital emergency room employee.

A baby can be safely surrendered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. A bracelet will be placed on the baby for identification and a matching bracelet will be given to the parent. This will help to identify the child if the parent changes his or her mind during the 14-day “cooling off” period. Every baby deserves a chance for a healthy life. If you or someone you know is considering abandoning a newborn, let them know there are options. For more information, call **1- 877-BABY- SAF (1-877-222-9723)**.

## Curfew Violation

*What’s a curfew?* It’s a law that requires individuals to be at home at a certain hour. The City San José has a curfew for youth. The City of San José Curfew is:

- Ages 15 and under: cannot be out between 10 PM and 5 AM unless with a parent or guardian
- Ages 16 and 17: cannot be out between 11:30 PM and 5 AM unless with a parent or guardian
- If a person is on probation, the court has the power to set a different curfew time.

If an officer stops you for a curfew violation, the officer will ask your age and reason for being in a public place. If you have violated the curfew law:

- You may be taken to a curfew center.
- Your parent/guardian will be called and asked to pick you up.
- You and your parent/guardian may be referred to counseling.

*Curfew Exceptions* (these may not apply if you are on probation)

- Your parent/guardian sent you on an errand (don’t make stops or detours) .
- You are the driver or passenger in a car or on public transportation (like a bus).
- You are going to or coming from work or volunteering (don’t make stops or detours) .
- You are responding to an emergency (like a fire, car accident or earthquake) .
- You are on your property (front porch, yard, or sidewalk).

- You are going to or coming home from a school, religious, cultural, sports, amusement, entertainment, or recreation activity or any organized rally, demonstration, meeting or similar activity (don't make stops or detours).
- You're waiting at a train or bus station for transportation.
- You've been declared by the court "legally emancipated" (an adult).

## Trespassing

Trespassing is entering property that belongs to someone else without permission. If a "No Trespassing" sign is posted or a person does not leave a business or other private property (or returns) after being asked to leave by an authorized person, it is considered trespassing.

## Jaywalking

Unless a police officer orders you to do something else, use the crosswalk when you cross the road. Don't take a short-cut in the middle of the block. Cross only at the intersection where signal lights or other control devices are present and you have the signal to go. It's not only illegal to jaywalk, it's dangerous.

## Loitering

To loiter means to delay, linger, or "hang out" in a school or public place with or without an apparent purpose. Other locations include parking lots, convenience stores, malls, and parks after closing.

## Disturbing the Peace

It's illegal to create unreasonably loud noises that disturb the peace and quiet of any neighborhood. Loud music, noisy car exhaust systems, and repeatedly honking a car horn can lead to a citation for disturbing the peace; so can fighting in a public place.

## Street Racing

*What is street racing?* Street racing, also known as exhibition of speed or "drag racing." Exhibition of speed can encompass more than racing, such as: "peel outs," skidding, sliding, "drifting," and other types of similar activities. If caught engaging in any of these activities police officers can:

- tow your car away and impound it for 30 days.
- You may also lose your license.
- You may be arrested.
- You may have to pay a fine and/or complete community service.

Each year, hundreds of people are injured or killed while street racing. Don't risk your health and safety, or anyone else's, by street racing. Don't put your car or freedom on the line.

## Shoplifting

*What is shoplifting?* Shoplifting is stealing something from a store without paying for it.

- It can also involve changing the price tag on an item or eating food and leaving without paying the bill.
- If charged with shoplifting, it will be treated as either a misdemeanor or a felony depending on two things: the value of the item stolen and whether the shoplifter has a prior criminal record for theft. Some people who shoplift sometimes do it for the thrill. Penalties can range from small fines, probation, and community service, to juvenile detention, jail, or prison time.

If someone uses force while stealing, a shoplifting can turn into a robbery which is a serious felony and can lead to years of prison time.

## Vandalism / Graffiti / Tagging

- *What is vandalism?* It's a crime that involves damaging someone else's property without the owner's permission. Common things that are often vandalized: fences vehicles, mailboxes, street signs, school desks, cars, etc.
- *What is graffiti?* Graffiti is a form of vandalism. It involves putting words, figures, designs on property that doesn't belong to you. Some people consider Graffiti a form of art however, when it is placed on property without the owner's permission, it is vandalism. Graffiti can cause property damage and be expensive to remove.
- *What is "tagging"?* Tagging is a form of vandalism. Typically tagging is a string of letters, words, or symbols. Areas that are tagged may represent a gang territory. Graffiti may attract gang activity and can result in violence and retaliation.

What is the punishment for vandalism? The punishment depends on (1) how much damage was done, and, (2) whether you have a prior record of vandalism.

- It usually includes a fine.
- If you can't afford to pay, your parents or legal guardians may be forced to pay it for you.
- If you have a driver's license, it may be suspended. If you don't have one, they may make you wait longer to get one.
- You may spend time in juvenile hall or jail in addition to a fine, especially if you have had previous vandalism charges.
- Other punishments may include community service.
- Repairing or replacing the damaged property – with or without your parents' help.
- The court may require you to get counseling.

#### Things to consider:

If you are under 18 and in a public place, like on the street or in a park, it is illegal for you to have etching cream or aerosol containers of paint, even if you are in a car. If you intend to commit vandalism or graffiti, it is illegal to possess things like glass cutters, chisels, and certain felt tip markers.

If you see tagging or graffiti and want it removed, please contact City of San José's Anti-Graffiti hotline at 1-866-249-05436 or use the San José Clean Mobile Phone App.

## Gang Activity

### *What is a criminal street gang?*

A group of three or more people, with a common name or symbol, who are or have been involved in a pattern of committing crimes.

Gang members can be male or female and almost any age. They usually gather in a certain location and claim it as their "hood." Gang members sometimes have similar tattoos or haircuts. They may wear clothes that are a specific common color or have a certain number or logo on them.

### *Criminal street gang enhancement:*

If someone commits a crime and it is proven that he or she did it to benefit his or her gang, the law allows for a more serious punishment for the crime.

- Note: If a gang member is placed on probation or parole, the court may order him or her to stay away from other gang members and from known gang hang-outs.

*Do the police hassle gang members?* Police officers must keep the City safe from crime. If you hang out in a neighborhood where there is a lot of gang activity or you spend time with gang members, the police may suspect you are a gang member. They may question you. Please see the sections in this guide about “Consensual Encounters & Detentions.”

*What about people who “recruit” new gang members?* Recruiting new gang members is a crime in California. It’s also a crime to keep someone from leaving a gang. The punishment for these crimes is more serious if done to someone who is under the age of 18.

*How do you get out of a gang?* If you or a friend are in a gang and want to get out, please call the Mayor’s Gang Prevention Task Force at (408) 794-1630. Other City and community resources are listed in the back of this guide.

## Smoking

### Cigarettes and Vape Pens

If you are under age 21, it’s illegal for you to smoke or to “buy, receive, or possess” cigarettes and vape pens. It’s also illegal for someone to give or sell these items to you. If you want to quit smoking you can get free help in California, please call 1-800-NO-BUTTS or visit [www.californiasmokershelpline.org](http://www.californiasmokershelpline.org).

## Drugs & Alcohol

The issue with drugs and alcohol is that (1) most drugs you can **legally** take are *those that a doctor prescribes for you*, (2) the age requirement for medicinal and recreational marijuana is 21 and (3) it’s illegal to drink if you are under age 21.

- Taking someone else’s prescribed medicine or using street drugs is dangerous and illegal.
- It’s illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to even possess alcohol (not just drink it).
- It’s illegal to buy it and illegal for someone else (including your parents) to buy it for you.
- Alcohol and some drugs can be addictive; once a person starts, he or she may need them all the time.

- Drugs and alcohol can cause a person to make bad decisions and to harm themselves or put themselves in risky situations.

If you want to stop drinking, call Alcoholics Anonymous at (408) 374-8511. If you want to stop using drugs, call Narcotics Anonymous at (408) 998-4200.

## Truancy

*What is truancy?* Truancy is another word for skipping or cutting school. In California, students ages 6 to 18 are required to go to school. *Truancy is a crime.*

A student is truant if he / she is absent from school for more than three days or 30 or more minutes late at least three times and the student does not have a valid excuse.

*What's a valid excuse?* A valid excuse is one that falls within your school district's guidelines. It must be written by your parent or guardian. (Examples: illness or a family death.) Exceptions are made for 16 or 17 year-olds who have graduated or passed the California High School Proficiency Exam.

If an officer sees you out on the street when you should be at school, the officer may stop you to find out why you are not in school. If you don't have a valid excuse or school pass:

- you may be taken to a truancy center,
- a report will be filled out, and
- your parent or guardian will be called to come get you.

There are many consequences to truancy, *especially if you do it a lot:*

- you may be referred to counseling,
- there may be school disciplinary action,
- you may end up messing up your grades or failing your classes,
- legal action may be taken against you or your parents (you or your parents may be arrested!),
- your parents may have to pay a big fine,
- you may lose your driver's license,
- you may have to do community service, and/or
- you may have to go to school on Saturdays.

## Bullying

*What is bullying?* It's repeatedly acting hurtful toward another person. It can involve the following behaviors. Some are illegal.

- Teasing
- Threatening
- Name calling
- Embarrassing
- Hitting, Kicking, Pushing

Bullying someone can lead to school discipline such as detention, suspension, parent meetings. Depending on the circumstances it can also lead to criminal charges. Sometimes bullying is "hate motivated." Please see the text box about Hate Crimes. The penalty for bullying may increase if it can be proven it was done out of hatred for a certain group of people.

## Hate Crimes

In California, a hate crime is a crime that is committed against someone because of his/her nationality, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation (gay, lesbian, etc.), disability, or gender (male, female, transgendered). Hate crimes are illegal and can lead to serious criminal charges and more severe punishments than non-hate crimes. If you think you have been the victim of a hate crime, report it to the police so they can try to prevent it from happening to others. For more information on this topic or to ask a question to call the Santa Clara County Network for a Hate Free Community's 24-hour anti-hate hotline: 408-271-0111.

## Cyberbullying

*What is cyberbullying?* It is online bullying. It happens when someone uses the Internet, cell phone, or other technology to send or post words or images intended to hurt or embarrass another person. Examples of cyberbullying:

- pretending to be someone else to trick others,
- spreading lies and rumors about victims,
- tricking people into revealing personal information,
- sending, posting, or forwarding mean text messages, blogs, or emails, and
- posting pictures of victims without their consent.

Although cyberbullies may think they are anonymous, they can be found. If you are cyberbullied or harassed and need help, save all communication with the cyberbully and talk to a parent, teacher, police officer, or another adult you trust.

There are ways to prevent cyberbullying:

- refuse to pass along cyberbullying messages,
- tell friends to stop cyberbullying,
- block communication with cyberbullies, and
- report cyberbullying to a trusted adult

### Fighting or Threatening Others

Fighting or threatening others is against the law both on and off of school property. The legal term for a threat is “assault” and for hitting someone is “battery. “

- An assault is a threat or attempt to hit someone when you have the ability to do so.
- A battery is the unlawful touching of another person, even if it’s just one punch. It’s using force or violence against someone. Other examples are: pulling hair, shoving, spitting, and throwing food or other objects at someone.

Both of these crimes can lead to arrest, and even more serious legal consequences if they are directed at police officers, fire fighters, or school employees.

### Disrupting or Interfering with Classes

Anyone who comes onto school grounds or nearby sidewalks and interferes with school activities or disrupts students may be charged with a crime. School campuses are meant for students and school employees. Visitors should always check in with the school office.

#### *Threatening School Employees*

It’s illegal to try to stop a school employee or officer from performing his or her duties by threatening to hurt the employee or to damage his or her property, if the school employee feels that you can carry out the **threat**. Threats are taken very serious and this can lead to serious legal consequences.

### *Weapons on Campus*

Bringing a weapon to school is a crime. It can get you in trouble with the law and also get you suspended or expelled from school. It's a felony to have a firearm (gun) at school. A felony is a serious crime which can result in being sent to a state prison. It's also illegal to have plastic or toy guns, paint balls or pellet guns at school. Remember that a school official can search you or your locker, purse or backpack without a warrant.

*What's a weapon?* Any object that can be used to cause serious injury can be considered a weapon. Some of these objects are:

razors

pellet guns

pocket knives

pointed objects

explosives including fireworks

stun guns / Tasers

metal knuckles

pepper spray

nunchucks

While the possession of some of these objects may not be illegal, their possession at a school is not allowed. Even if the person is not arrested, the student can be suspended or expelled from school.



## Youth as Victims of Crime

Everyday there are people who experience robbery, rape, assault, domestic violence, child abuse and other crimes. If you have been the victim of a crime, call 911. The police will investigate and get you to a hospital if you need medical care. The State of California offers some important services to survivors of crime. Call Victim's Assistance at (916) 324-9140 and/or Victim's Compensation at (916) 323-3432. In San José, you may reach the local programs at (408) 295-2656 and (408) 535-5061. Other agencies listed in the resource section of this guide may also be useful. Remember, you are not alone.

### Staying Safe

Some steps you can take to keep safe:

- If you feel you're in danger, call the police at 911.
- Always be aware of where you are and what's going on around you.
- Avoid dangerous situations like walking alone at night in an isolated area.
- Whenever possible, go with a friend and stay in well-lit, open areas.

- Never accept a ride from a stranger and never open your door to someone you don't know or trust. Never tell a stranger that you're home alone.
- Don't give your address to unknown callers – even if they say they need it for a business reason.
- If you sense trouble, trust your instincts and get away from the situation.
- Make sure someone always knows where you are going and when you will be back, even if they only have a general idea it is better than nothing.
- Have your keys ready before you approach your car. Have them in hand before you leave the building you are coming from.
- Never get into a car where the driver has been drinking or doing drugs.
- Be aware of your drinks at parties. Drugs can be slipped in unnoticed.
- Always look out for intoxicated friends. If friends of yours or people you know become intoxicated, keep an eye out for them in order to prevent them from being in a compromising situation.

## Internet Safety

The Internet is used by millions of people all over the world. While many Internet users are friendly, some may want to hurt you. Below are some ways to stay cyber-safe:

Never post or share your personal information online (this includes your full name, address, telephone number, school name, parents' names, credit card number, Social Security number, date of birth, and details about where you hang out.)

- Never post personal information about your friends.
- Never share your internet passwords with anyone, except your parents.
- Never meet anyone face-to-face whom you only know online.
- Never post private photos or videos of yourself or anyone else online. Once the picture or video is online, it can get passed around for a long time.
- In some instance, posting and sharing nude or seminude pictures or video over email and internet may be a crime with legal consequences.

Facebook, Snapchat, YouTube, Twitter, the list goes on. No one can deny how popular it has become to use the social media to contact your friends, meet new people and share information. Social media can keep you connected to what is going on in the world – with your friends, local events and, and even national news. You can communicate with other people quickly and develop a long list of “friends.” The down-side or danger is that you may give out information that is way too personal. Sometimes, sensitive information can end up in the wrong hands. Down the line, colleges and employers may demand to see your “page” or accounts before they’ll accept or hire you.

It’s important to be careful about what you post. Ask yourself: Would I want this post on the front page of the school newspaper? If not, you probably should not post it. Don’t post anything that will hurt someone else or yourself.

## Sexting

Some youth participate in “sexting.” They send explicit or sexual messages, photos, or videos of themselves by phone or Internet. Sexting is very risky. If the message or photo ends up in the wrong hands, you will be humiliated. Sharing explicit photographs of another person could also be a crime -- specially if the person is under eighteen years of age.

## Abuse

Abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional, or a combination of those things.

- Physical abuse is when a person is hurt by physical force such as punching, kicking, chocking or other ways. It can involve bruising or serious injuries like broken bones.
- Sexual Abuse includes being touched in sexual ways that make you uncomfortable or being forced to have sex
- Emotional abuse is when a person is constantly put down or told they are no good. It can include shouting, criticizing, or swearing at the person.
- Neglect is when a person is not given the basic things he/she need to grow, like food, clothes, and medical care.

If you are being abused or neglected, call the Child Abuse Reporting Hotline at (408) 299-2071 or the police at 911. If you’re too afraid to call, talk to an adult you trust, like a teacher or relative. Child abuse is against the law and you have the right to be safe.

## Dating Violence

Dating violence or dating violence happens when one person tries to control another person using words or actions. Types of dating violence can include sexual assault, physical abuse, and/or emotional abuse. These types of activities can be crimes and they can happen in casual or serious and gay or straight relationships. It is never a victim's fault when these things happen—no one deserves to be hurt or violated.

What are some signs that you might in an abusive relationship? Your partner:

- wants to know what you are doing all the time
- criticizes you for little things
- accuses you of cheating or is extremely jealous
- doesn't want you to see your family or friends
- blames you for everything
- tries to control how you spend your money and what you wear
- puts you down in front of other people
- hurts you or threatens to hurt you
- doesn't allow you to leave when you want to, and
- tries to force you to have sex when you don't want to.

Even though dating violence is a crime, victims may not feel comfortable reporting it to the police. If you or someone you know has been the victim of dating violence, call 911 and talk to an adult you trust. Support is also available by calling the National Teen Dating Abuse 24-hour hotline at (866) 331-9474 or by talking to a counselor at school. Talk with a nurse or doctor, especially if you have been physically hurt. Please see the resources section of this guide for agencies that can help.

## Self-Harm

The feelings experienced as a teenager can be overwhelming. To deal with life, some teenagers may hurt themselves by cutting or burning parts of their body. Self-harm behavior usually indicates that person needs to talk to a supportive adult. If you or someone you know has engaged in self-harm behaviors, please reach out to a parent, teacher, or trusted adult.

## Suicide

No one gets through life without feeling all kinds of emotions, both good and bad. In fact, many people think about suicide at one time or another in their lives, teens included. Sometimes it's because they are struggling with something that seems impossible or overwhelming, which may lead them to feeling hopeless. Often that person just wants to stop feeling miserable. It can be difficult to talk about these types of feelings and even harder to make clear decisions. If you or someone you know is feeling this way, call the Suicide Crisis Hotline of Santa Clara County at (408) 270-3312 day or night. It is anonymous. Talking to a trusted adult is also an option.

## Running Away from Home

A young person who runs away from home is usually facing a tough problem and feels it is the only escape. Running away can be dangerous and may create other challenges like not having food, money or a safe place to sleep. The police will become involved if you are reported as a missing person and it is possible to be taken to juvenile hall or shelter if located by the police. If you feel there's no way to fix a problem, try talking to a trusted adult. Or ask for help by calling the National Runaway Switchboard. Their free 24 hour hotline is (800) 621-4000.



## Resource Guide

### City of San José

#### After School Programs

(408) 793-5565 • [www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3057](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3057)

A partnership with the City of San José, school districts, community-based organizations, teachers and parents to provide safe, fun and enriching after-school activities for youth.

#### Anti-Graffiti Program

1 (866) 249-0543 24-hour hotline • 408-975-7233 • [www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=606](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=606)

Call the hotline to report graffiti in your neighborhood. Their mobile app is “San José Clean.”

#### City of San José Call Center

(408) 535-3500 • [www.sanjoseca.gov](http://www.sanjoseca.gov)

Directory assistance for finding City of San José departments. Main City webpage.

#### Clean Slate Tattoo Removal Program

(408) 794-1660 • [www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=565](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=565)

Serves former gang-involved and at-risk youth of San José between the ages of 14-25 who find tattoos to be a barrier to education and employment.

Independent Police Auditor (IPA) • <https://www.facebook.com/SanJoseIPA/>  
(408) 794-6226 • [www.sanjoseca.gov/ipa](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/ipa)

A non-police office where you can file a complaint against a San José police officer. A *Student's Guide to Police Practices* can be downloaded from the website in English, Spanish or Vietnamese. Presentations about the topics in this guide and IPA services are available to the public.

Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force (MGPTF)  
(408) 794.1630 • [www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?nid=642](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?nid=642)

A work group made up of City, county and state entities, community-based organizations, SJPd, faith community, schools, and other stakeholders that offer community resources to fight negative influences that youth receive from gangs. Please call for more information on available resource.

Safe School Campus Initiative  
(408) 277-2741 • [www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=565](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=565)

A mobile outreach unit that provides citywide mediation for street gangs and intervention in volatile situations. Works to reduce gang violence and refers gang-involved individuals to intervention programs.

San José Fire Department  
(408) 794-7000 (non-emergency) • Emergency #911 • [www.sjfd.org](http://www.sjfd.org)

Public education staff are available to meet with schools, community organizations or other groups to do presentations on fire and life safety, community awareness, fire station tours, and others.

San José Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department  
(408) 535-3570 • [www.sanjoseca.gov/prns](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/prns)

Offers a variety of programs throughout San José for residents, families and youth. See their website for the *Citywide Activity Guide*, recreational activities, parks, youth programs and neighborhood services.

San José Police Department  
(408) 277-8900 (non-emergency) • Emergency #911 • [www.sjpd.org](http://www.sjpd.org)

San José Police Department - Crime Prevention Unit  
(408) 277-4133 (non-emergency) • Emergency #911 • <https://www.sjpd.org/bfo/community>

Specialists provide safety information, referrals, and training on various safety topics for neighborhoods, community groups and businesses.

San José Public Library

(408) 808-2000 • [www.sjlibrary.org](http://www.sjlibrary.org) • youth service department, call (408) 808-2183 • youth.sjpl@sjlibrary.org

San José Public Library enriches lives by fostering lifelong learning and by ensuring that every member of the community has access to a vast array of ideas and information. Offers homework resources, job and vocational guidance resources.

Work2future Youth Training Center

(408) 794-1234 • [www.work2futureyouth.org](http://www.work2futureyouth.org)

Assists with youth employment, career counseling, job search services, and job training. Some services require eligibility.

Youth Commission

(408) 793-5559 • [www.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/CommissionBoard/Youth.asp](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/CommissionBoard/Youth.asp)

Provides youth with the opportunity to be involved in the City of San José's decision-making process. The Commission is the official youth advisory group to the City Council and serves to educate the community about youth issues

## Other Resources

Al-Anon/Alateen

(408) 379-1051 • [www.ncwsa.org](http://www.ncwsa.org)

Al-Anon groups meet regularly to help families and friends of alcoholics recover from the effects of living with the problem drinking of a relative or friend. Alateen is part of Al-Anon and focuses on helping young people.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

(408) 374-8511 • [www.aasanjose.org](http://www.aasanjose.org)

AA groups meet regularly to help people recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Alum Rock Counseling Center (ARCC)

(408) 294-0500 • [www.alumrockcc.org](http://www.alumrockcc.org) • (408) 294-0579 24/7 Youth Crisis Hotline Offers a range of crisis intervention, case management, counseling, mentoring, prevention, education, and early intervention services including programs designed for at-risk youth and families at schools and community sites throughout east and central San José.

Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI)

(408) 975-2730 • [www.aaci.org](http://www.aaci.org)

Provides youth support groups and mentoring on school campuses; afterschool programming; mental health, substance abuse, problem gambling, HIV testing, domestic violence, and medical services.

Asian American Recovery Services, Inc. (AARS)

(408) 271-3900 • [www.aars.org](http://www.aars.org)

Works to decrease substance abuse in the Bay Area within the Asian and Pacific Islander communities. AARS develops and provides innovative outreach treatment, prevention, and research services for its target populations.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bay Area

(408) 586-0150 • [www.bbbsba.org](http://www.bbbsba.org)

Builds responsible, independent children and youth by matching each with a supportive and caring adult role model. Offers mentoring programs for children who are at-risk for substance abuse, juvenile crime, academic failure, low self-esteem, teen pregnancy, and gang activity.

Bill Wilson Center

(408) 243-0222 • (408) 850-6125 Crisis Line • [www.billwilsoncenter.org](http://www.billwilsoncenter.org)

Supports and strengthens the community by serving youth and families through counseling, housing, education, and advocacy.

The Billy DeFrank Lesbian, Gay, & Transgender Community Center

(408) 293-3040 • [www.defrankcenter.org](http://www.defrankcenter.org)

Provides a safe space for youth and young adults to develop their sexual and gender identities, and to realize their potential as valuable members of the community. Several groups meet on a weekly basis and drop-ins are always welcome.

California Youth Crisis Line

(800) 843-5200 24-hour hotline • [www.youthcrisisline.org](http://www.youthcrisisline.org)

Offers support, encouragement, and referrals to youth in crisis who need help with issues such as family problems, sexual assault, eating disorders, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, suicide and more. Call for a referral or just to talk.

California Youth Outreach

(408) 979-3043

Serves gang-impacted youth, families and their communities with education services, intervention programs and resource opportunities that support a healthy and positive lifestyle.

Catholic Charities

(408) 468-0100 • <http://www.catholiccharitiesscc.org/>

Offers recreational activities, gang prevention and intervention, youth and parent support groups, community resources, street outreach for run-aways, mentoring, and truancy outreach.

Catholic Charities • Immigration and Citizenship Services

(408)-944-0691 • <http://www.catholiccharitiesscc.org/immigration-and-citizenship-services>

Offers eligible immigrants navigate the process of becoming a U.S. citizen services include assessments of eligibility, application assistance, interview preparation, and referral to English and citizen classes. Resettlement and retraining services for refugees and asylees who have fled war, persecution, and violence in the home countries.

Child Abuse Reporting Hotline (Child Protective Services Agency)

(408) 299-2071 24-hour hotline • (800) 422-4453 • [www.childhelp.org](http://www.childhelp.org)

A 24-hour hotline where individuals can report child abuse and/or neglect. Children and youth can request help for themselves and/or their families.

ConXion to Community

(408) 213-0961 • [www.conxion.org](http://www.conxion.org)

Offers education, career development, and job training programs with a focus on services for youth ages 16-24. GED is offered in collaboration with East Side Union High School District.

Community Solutions Center, Inc.

(408) 225-9163 • [www.communitysolutions.org](http://www.communitysolutions.org)

Provides group & family counseling, alcohol & drug assessment and treatment, home-based support for teen parents, foster care housing & support for teen parents, transitional housing for homeless youth & young parents, youth activity center, and teen assault awareness programs.

Crime Stoppers of Silicon Valley (Anonymous Tip Hotline)

(408) 947-STOP • (408) 947-7867 • [www.svcrimestoppers.org](http://www.svcrimestoppers.org)

An independent organization where you can report information about a crime without having to give your name or appear in court. You may also submit information on-line.

Department of Social Services Application Center

(408) 758-3800 • [www.mybenefitscalwin.org](http://www.mybenefitscalwin.org)

Assists with the application process for food stamps, cash aid and MediCal.

Uplift Family Services

(408) 379-3790 • (877) 412-7474 Crisis Line • [www.uplifts.org](http://www.uplifts.org)

Crisis line for teens and children dealing with trauma and severe depression. Other programs include family-centered (in-home) wraparound care and truancy case management services. For more information, call (408) 379-3796.

#### Home First

(408) 539-2100 • [www.homefirstsc.org](http://www.homefirstsc.org)

Provides shelter, housing opportunities, and supportive services for homeless individuals, families, and youth.

#### Family and Children Services

(408) 292-9353 • [www.fcservices.org](http://www.fcservices.org)

Provides counseling, deaf and hard of hearing services, gay/lesbian services, HIV/AIDS counseling, program for youth emancipating from foster care and juvenile probation, psychiatric services, school-based services, seriously mentally ill services, and youth leadership development.

#### Firehouse Community Development Corporation

(408) 327-9622 • [www.the-firehouse.org](http://www.the-firehouse.org)

Empowers youth and their families to break the cycles of poverty and become productive members of the community. Offers gang mediation, intervention response, services for adjudicated youth, and parent/family support services.

#### Foothill Community Health Center (408) 729-9700 • [www.siffcc.org](http://www.siffcc.org)

Provides high quality comprehensive affordable healthcare to community. Services are available to anyone, regardless of age ethnicity, social status, or ability to pay.

#### Fresh Lifelines for Youth, Inc. (FLY)

(408) 263-2630 • [www.freshlifelinesforyouth.com](http://www.freshlifelinesforyouth.com)

Provides mentoring, leadership training, and legal education for youth to reduce juvenile crime and incarceration.

#### Girl Scouts of Santa Clara County

408-287-4170 • 800-447-4475 • [www.girlscoutsofsc.org](http://www.girlscoutsofsc.org)

Provides girls and young women, ages 5-17, with life skills that will empower them to reach their full potential, make life-enhancing decisions, develop self-esteem, and be active.

#### La Raza Roundtable

(408)- 529-1900 • [www.facebook.com/LaRazaRoundtable](http://www.facebook.com/LaRazaRoundtable)

Holds a monthly forum to discuss issues affecting the community. Brings together community organizations, community leaders, elected officials, private and public sector representatives. Advocates for juvenile justice and works to develop youth leaders.

#### Legal Advocates for Children and Youth (LACY)

(408) 293-4790 • [www.lawfoundation.org/lacy.asp](http://www.lawfoundation.org/lacy.asp)

Free legal information and services in the areas of education/school, youth emancipation, and legal guardianships. Special programs for homeless youth and pregnant/ parenting teenagers.

#### School of Arts and Culture

(408) 794-6250 • <http://schoolofartsandculture.org/> • [info@schoolofartsandculture.org](mailto:info@schoolofartsandculture.org)

Offers a variety of programs, music classes, cultural enrichment programs, folkloric dance, and community engagement activities.

#### Mexican Consulate

(408) 294-3414 • [www.consulmexsj.com](http://www.consulmexsj.com)

Consular protection and assistance on immigration, civil, labor and criminal matters. Services provided only to Mexican nationals.

#### National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

(408) 295-3394 • [www.sanjosenaacp.org](http://www.sanjosenaacp.org)

The NAACP works to ensure equality of rights, and eliminate hatred and discrimination. The local chapter offers youth scholarships and events.

#### Narcotics Anonymous (NA)

(408) 998-4200 (24-hour hotline) • [www.sjna.org](http://www.sjna.org)

NA groups meet regularly to help each other stop using drugs and find a new way to live. Membership is open regardless of the type or amount of drugs used.

#### National Runaway Switchboard

1-800-RUNAWAY (1-800-786-2929) 24-hour hotline • [www.1800runaway.org](http://www.1800runaway.org)

Help for young people who are thinking of running away, have friends who have run away, or have run and want to go home. Also provides educational materials for teachers.

#### National Dating Abuse Hotline (NTDAH)

(866) 331-9474 (24-hour hotline) • [www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)

A 24-hour hotline that provides immediate and confidential help to teens (ages 13-18) experiencing dating abuse. There is no charge for the phone call.

#### Next Door, Solutions to Domestic Violence

(408) 279-2962 (24-hour hotline) • (408) 501-7550 • [www.nextdoor.org](http://www.nextdoor.org)

Crisis counseling for victims of domestic violence. For administration, legal services, shelter, support groups and counseling, please call (408) 501-7550.

Office of the District Attorney, Santa Clara County  
(408) 299-7400 • (408) 501-7550 • [www.santaclara-da.org](http://www.santaclara-da.org)

This office is responsible for prosecuting crimes in Santa Clara County. They also offer information on the criminal process and a resource guide for crime victims.

Office of Human Relations, Santa Clara County  
(408) 792-2300 • [www.sccgov.org/portal/site/ohr](http://www.sccgov.org/portal/site/ohr)

Reduces discrimination and helps the community through a Youth Task Force, Domestic Violence Council, Immigrant Relations & Integration Services, Dispute Resolutions Program, Network for a Hate-Free, Institute for Non-Violence and Human Relations Commission.

Office of the Public Defender, Santa Clara County  
(408) 299-7700 • [www.sccgov.org/portal/site/opd/](http://www.sccgov.org/portal/site/opd/)

This office provides legal representation if a person is charged with a crime in Santa Clara County but cannot afford a private lawyer. They also provide information on various types of cases and special programs.

Pathway Society, Inc.  
(408) 244-1834 • [www.pathwayinc.com](http://www.pathwayinc.com)

Provides counseling for families, individuals, and groups regarding drug addiction, substance abuse, and other issues.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)  
(408) 270-8182 • [www.pflagsanjose.org](http://www.pflagsanjose.org)

Offers support, education and advocacy to lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender persons and their friends and family members.

San José Police Activities League (PAL)  
(408) 272-9725 • [www.sjpdpal.com](http://www.sjpdpal.com)

A youth crime prevention program that uses education, athletics and recreation to cement a bond between officers and youth. Offers cheerleading, football, softball, baseball and soccer.

Silicon Valley Career Technical Education Center  
(408) 723-6400 • <http://www.metroed.net/SVCTE/>

The Silicon Valley Career Technical Education offers courses within 12 industry sectors where junior and senior high school students can explore and develop technical skills that will lead them to higher education or into the workplace.

Silicon Valley De-Bug (De-Bug)

(408) 971-4965 • [www.siliconvalleydebug.com](http://www.siliconvalleydebug.com)

A collective of writers, artists, organizers, and workers that publishes De-Bug Magazine and produces Block 2 Block Radio and Open-World TV, has media workshops for schools and community organizations, and fights for justice through Community campaigns.

Suicide Crisis Hotline, County of Santa Clara

(855) 278-4204 (24-hours/day)

[www.sccgov.org/sites/mhd/Resources/SP/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/mhd/Resources/SP/Pages/default.aspx)

Immediate and confidential emotional support and crisis intervention for people in life-threatening situations.

Ujima Adult & Family Services, Inc.

(408) 928-1700

Offers various services targeting African families and youth at risk. Provides 24-hour home-based case management services to those who are involved in the juvenile justice system and African life skills groups for youth and families.

Planned Parenthood Mar Monte

(408) 287-7526 • (408) 971-6963 • [www.ppmMarmonte.org](http://www.ppmMarmonte.org)

Planned Parenthood is a national leader in providing and advocating for sexual and reproductive health care services.

YWCA Silicon Valley

(408) -749-0793 • <http://ywca-sv.org/>

Counseling for victims of domestic violence. Presentations on healthy relationships, and training for peer education on domestic violence. Provides rape crisis services.