Understanding

through

Knowledge

EMPOWERING

Aurora Police Department Resources, Procedures & Laws. For the youth by the youth.

AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT INDIVIDUAL MISSION STATEMENT

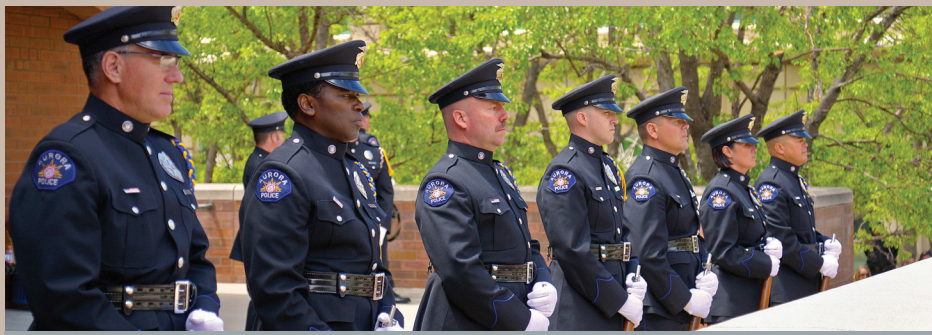
"Our commitment to community service is driven by the expectation that we maintain the highest core values."

ORGANIZATIONAL MISSION STATEMENT

"To make Aurora safer every day."

WHAT IS COMMUNITY POLICING?

Community policing, also known as community oriented policing, is a strategy of policing that focuses on building ties and working closely with the community. It encourages use of partnerships. For example, the Aurora Police Department partners with various organizations such as local churches, Aurora NAACP, Urban League, and Rights for All People. In addition, the Aurora Police Department works with different community councils to help lead in issues that impact the perception of law enforcement.



MESSAGE

From the Chief of Police

The Aurora Police Department has a mission "to make Aurora safer every day." Achieving this mission is simply not possible without the support, trust and cooperation of the community. This includes the young people of our city.

The men and women in our department are here to protect and serve you, your family and your friends.

The topics in this guide were selected and written by and with the assistance of a group of students. This guide is to provide you with knowledge on how police officers work and what to expect when you come into contact with one. We hope that by having this information you will make smart decisions when you come in contact with a police officer for any reason.

Take the time to read this guide and share it with your family and friends. Working together we can strengthen our relationship and break down barriers that may exist between police, youth and others. We can achieve our mission by working together.

Chief Nick Metz

AURORA
POLICE

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MAKING YOU, ME &

During your interaction with an Aurora Police officer, you can expect the officer to:

- Approach you in a professional manner.
- Introduce themselves to you and advise you of the reason for the contact as soon as it is safe and reasonable. It may not be right away.
- Answer your questions regarding the contact.
- Make sure that you are safe, as well as the community. That is the officer's No. 1 priority.

During Emergency Situations

Active shooter, bomb threats, fires, high-risk traffic stops, large fights

In this day and age, there are many things happening all around us all the time. In school you have been taught emergency actions, to many of these situations. Most of you know what to do if there is a fire, tornado or a threat in the school. You are taught to do things that will place you and others in the safest place possible based on research of past events and training exercises. Police officers, firefighters and military personnel train for many things so they do what they are trained to do, not just what their mind might try to tell them what to do.

In the event of a threat in the school, you are taught to

- Close the doors
- Lock the doors
- Cover the windows if possible
- Stay out of sight
- Be very quiet

It is very important that you remember these drills and practice them right so you can take appropriate action in real life if it happens. Follow the direction of your leaders (security, administration and teachers) as they will instruct you if you do not know what to do or have forgotten.

THE POLICE SAFER

During a threat anywhere, the police will respond. Here is what you will need to do to assist the police in making the situation safe.

- Try to stay calm
- Listen to commands of officers
- Do exactly as officers instruct
- Be patient with the officers, as you will need to be patted down

For example, if you have been sitting quietly in a room for hours after being placed in a lockdown at school: Do not be alarmed when police officers are the first ones in the room to get you out. Do not be alarmed when they have their weapons drawn. Do not take offense just because they pat you down and have you walk out with your hands up where they are visible. Police do the things they do for a specific reason, and it all comes back to SAFETY.

Safety is for you, for the officers, and for everyone else around.

If you see police completing a high-risk stop and officers pointing guns at a vehicle or a person, please stay away. This also relates to officers in an area with their guns drawn for many other situations as well. It does not help you, or the police, to become a part of the situation because you want to see what happened, is happening or will happen.

If there is a large fight, please stay away for your own safety. What if someone pulls a gun and starts shooting? Is it worth getting shot over because you want to watch a fight? When the police say to step back, please do so. They give you that order so they can evaluate the situation and protect people, which includes you.

WHY DID I GET PULLED OVER?

AN OFFICER'S PERSPECTIVE ON A TRAFFIC STOP

When I stop a car, I know very little about the people in the car, or what is going on inside the car as I approach. Traffic stops are very dangerous for officers, not only because we are walking into an unknown situation with the car and the occupants, but also because of traffic that we are now standing in. You might feel that I am too cautious when I am approaching your car, but put yourself in my position, and remember that I know very little about you or what is going on in your car. Please don't be offended or alarmed if another car assists with the stop. It is common practice for other officers in the area to come to the stop and assist when they hear me call out the stop on the radio.

To make the stop go as quickly and smoothly as possible, speak to me calmly and with respect, and I will do the same to you. Please keep your hands open and in my view, and tell your passengers to do the same. If the traffic stop happens at night, please turn on your interior lights so we can see each other. If I ask you to pull into a parking lot or onto a side street, please don't be alarmed. I am having you move to get us out of traffic and make it safer for both you and me. If you don't feel comfortable stopping in the area where the officer turns his emergency lights on, reduce your speed, turn on your hazard flashers, and drive to the closest well-lit area and stop. If you follow these suggestions, the stop will go as easily as possible for both of us.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

What if I am contacted by the police?

- Remain calm.
- Always cooperate
- Comply with the officer's request such as showing your ID.
- Don't argue during the stop.
- You can ask questions.
- You can ask the officer to contact your parents.
- You can ask for the officer's name and badge number.

What is probable cause?

Sufficient reasons, based on fact, for a police officer to conduct a search or arrest someone.

Why is this important?

The Fourth Amendment (part of the Bill of Rights) protects you from unreasonable search and seizure of your body, your property and personal items.

When does an officer need a search warrant?

A search warrant is an official document issued by a judge that grants police the right to search property and people while also being able to seize possessions and make arrests. An officer needs probable cause to search. Probable cause is established by:

- The available facts and not just assumption that a crime was committed.
- A neutral and detached magistrate (a judge) must issue the search warrant.
- The search warrant should be precise about where the officer can search and what items can be seized.

The exception is a warrantless search and arrest. When can an officer search without a warrant?

- During emergencies and immediate circumstance or a threat to the public.

When else can they search me or my property?

- After you are arrested, the officers have the right to search and seize any evidence that you have in your possession.
- You can't forbid police from searching you after you are arrested.

Plain View Seizures

If officers can see something illegal in plain sight, they have the right to seize the item(s). The easiest way to remember:

If you can legally see, where you can legally be, you can legally seize.

Can an officer just ask to search me or my property?

Yes, an officer can simply ask you for consent to search you or your property. It is your choice if you want to give the officer permission to search. You can say no.

Can a school staff member search me or my property?

Different from law enforcement, school staff members are not required to have probable cause to conduct a search or seize property. Staff members are required to have "reasonable suspicion" for individual searches. The lead U.S. Supreme Court case on this issue is New Jersey v. T.L.O. School staff members can search a student's possessions when the staff member reasonably suspects that the student has violated or is violating a school rule. The search must be related to the underlying suspicion. Also, the manner and extent of the search can't be overly intrusive given the nature of the incident, and the age and sex of the student. The staff can search lockers, vehicles on campus, containers found in possession of students, purses, bags and the person. Check your school district's policies on searches.

School staff members can conduct random or blanket searches as a preventive measure. Examples of random searches include the use of metal detectors in school entrances and sweeps of parking lots and lockers. Schools must have a compelling interest or special need that warrants the use of a random search without suspicion. The most common need articulated by schools is the prevention of drug abuse or school violence.

If you want to find out more information on what your rights are, there are plenty of resources. Here are few suggestions:

Aurora NAACP Branch

The Aurora NAACP Branch has an Adult chapter and a Youth Council Chapter. The Aurora NAACP Youth

Council's goal is to bridge the gap between youth and Aurora Police Department while working on ticketing in schools, and the school to prison pipeline. The Aurora NAACP Youth Council also works with LYRIC (Learn Your Rights in Colorado) and Padres & Jovenes Unidos in order reduce ticketing in schools, help juveniles, and help kids learn their rights. The Aurora NAACP Youth Council meets every fourth Saturday of each month, and the Adult branch meets every second Saturday of the month.

For more information visit: *www.auroracoloradonaacp.org*

Learn Your Rights in Colorado (LYRIC)

The goal of LYRIC is to teach youth about their constitutional rights. Their programming aims to bring constitutional law to life for juveniles in schools, juvenile justice facilities and community settings.

LYRIC aims to enable young people to become active and knowledgeable citizens who feel empowered to exercise their rights if they are contacted by the police. LYRIC teaches a 55- minute "Know Your Rights" curriculum that is the perfect accompaniment to high school civics curriculums. All LYRIC programming is taught by practicing attorneys.

For more information visit: www.lyricolorado.com/

American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado

The mission of the ACLU of Colorado is to defend the civil rights and civil liberties of all people by providing not only litigation but also through education and advocacy.

For information visit www.aclu-co.org

Making a complaint on an Officer or to Commend an Officer

If you feel the officer's conduct was less than professional or not satisfactory, you can report the incident by calling the Internal Affair Bureau at 303.739.6072 or you can file a complaint online by going to aurorapolice.com and clicking on File a Complaint. If you feel the officer has met your expectations above and beyond you can visit *www.AuroraPolice.com* to file a commendation.

LET'S TALK SOCIAL MEDIA

Almost everyone has some kind of social media account. Here are a few tips to keep you safe on Twitter, Snapchat, Facebook or whatever type of account you may have.

- Don't post personal information on any social media site (address, phone number, school, sports teams).
- Turn off the location services for images on your devices. There is information in every picture that may Geo-locate your exact location based on when the image was taken.
- Don't post about where you are or where you are going! You can share pictures from your vacation after you get home.
- Do not post explicit or illegal content online (pictures, comments, etc.). Future employers and schools may find this information. Think before you post! You can't take it back!
- Do not accept friend requests or allow people to follow you online if you have never met the individual in person. Know whom you are communicating with.
- Search for yourself online. Know what personal information is public.
- Use the Privacy Settings on all social media sites. Make sure your accounts are PRIVATE.
- As always, report any inappropriate behavior.

Social media is not the only forum where you can communicate with your friends and strangers online. If you are using email, instant messengers or chatrooms, some of the same safety tips apply, but here are some other things you should think about.

- Do not reply to rude e-mails, messages and comments.
- If you feel you are being harassed by email or any other type of electronic communication, save the evidence. Take screen shots of the comments or images, and take note of the date and time the email or message was received.
- "Block" bullies or delete your current account and create a new one if someone is continuously harassing you.

LEGAL WEED

LEGAL WEED! WHAT?

What are the laws, and how do they impact me?

Age

You must be 21 years old to purchase, possess or use retail marijuana or marijuana products. It is illegal to give or sell retail marijuana to minors.

Public use

The law bans public use of any retail marijuana product, including eating, drinking, vaping or smoking it anywhere the general public can go. This means it is illegal to use marijuana in amusement parks, sporting or music venues, parks or playgrounds, on sidewalks or roads, or at marijuana retail businesses and outdoor and rooftop cafes, just to name a few locations. Also, marijuana use is illegal on federal land, which includes Colorado's ski resorts and national parks.

Driving

Retail marijuana is regulated just like alcohol, so think of it like an open container law. Neither drivers nor passengers are allowed to open or use the product while in the car. It is illegal to drive while under the influence of marijuana.

Consequences for people younger than 21 years old

Retail marijuana use and possession are illegal for anyone younger than 21 in Colorado.

As a minor, you can be charged with a Minor in Possession, or an MIP, for possessing marijuana or marijuana paraphernalia.

If you get an MIP, it can result in:

- A fine
- Court-ordered education
- Loss of a driver's license
- Community service
- Potential loss of scholarships or financial aid. This is because when a student fills out a FAFSA, the application for federal funding for higher education asks about past drug offenses, which include marijuana.
- You may not get your firearm license. This is because the firearm application asks about past drug offenses, which include marijuana. An MIP for marijuana may impact your application status.

Do You See the SOUNDS and Hear the COLORS?

Many people are aware of the dangers of illegal drugs such as cocaine, meth, crack, heroin, etc. These drugs have dangerous side effects and are highly addictive. Many people will avoid these drugs due to the known issues around them. But that doesn't mean the dangers aren't equally real for prescription drugs or over the counter medications.

Over the counter (OTC) and prescription drugs are often abused. In fact, prescription drugs are the most abused drugs in the United States. These drugs, while helpful when followed by the direction of your doctor, can be dangerous and a form of drug abuse when you take more than what is prescribed (think of famous people such as Prince and Michael Jackson who died as a result of prescription drug abuse).

- Sizzurp/Syrup/Purple drink: Street name for a mixture of OTC cough syrup, soda and candy.
  - When consumed in high amounts, this can lead to hallucinogenic effects, body tremors and seizures, and even low doses gives a drunken-like effect.
  - This can be highly addictive when abused.
- Molly/Mollies: Typically found around the Electronic Dance Music (EDM) scene.
  - A synthetic drug that can have hallucinogenic effects and causes body heat to increase, dehydration and other negative effects.
  - Can cause death due to overheating of the body.
- Alcohol: substance that is legal for adults and illegal for those under 21.
  - Highly addictive, which can and usually does lead to negative life issues with abuse.

Many drugs (or their effects) are new to science, like high THC content, synthetics, and abuse of common medicine. Because of this, they have not been tested to know exactly how negatively they can affect the mind and body, both short term and long term. Please be careful out there, as you may not actually know what it is you are getting yourself into. Smoking marijuana one time could be totally different than another time. Getting high one time could be the first step in a downward spiral to lifelong negative effects.

SAFE DATING ADVICE

ANYONE CAN BE A VICTIM OF RAPE OR SEXUAL ASSAULT.

Sexual assault and unlawful sexual contact (CRS 18-3-402 & 18-3-404)

Sexual assault or rape is an act of sexual intercourse, without consent, to include when the victim is unable to consent due to being physically helpless, and where force or violence is used or threatened.

Unlawful sexual assault is any sexual contact such as touching or feeling another person without consent.

RESPECT ME, DON'T SEXT ME

Sexting

Sexting can lead to social, academic and legal consequences. You could face humiliation, lose educational opportunities, and get in trouble with the law. Think twice before you hit send!

Here are some tips:

- Don't be a bystander or an instigator. If you receive a "sext," do not forward the image to anyone else.
- Never take a picture you would not show your parents, teachers, coaches, etc.
- Talk to your parents if you receive a nude picture on your cellphone.

- Think before hitting "Send."
- If anyone pressures you into doing something that feels uncomfortable, it's probably not a good idea. Report it.
- Once you send a picture, you cannot take it back. Assume everyone can now see it.
- Know your school policies on cellphones, cyberbullying and sexting.
- Report any nude or semi-nude images that you receive to law enforcement.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

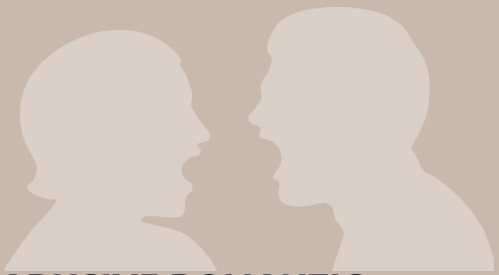
(CRS 18-6-800.3)

Domestic violence is an act or threatened act of violence against a person with whom the offender is or has been involved in an intimate relationship. "Domestic violence" also includes any other crime against such a person, or against property, including an animal.

ASSAULT AND BATTERY

(Muni Code Sec. 94-36 & 94-37)

Battery is using force or violence against a person. Assault is the threat of using violence against another person. The charge of assault is added when charging battery.



ABUSIVE ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP

Is it Dating Violence?

If the person you are involved with acts controlling, aggressive, coercive or violent, that's abuse. Relationships can be abusive even if there is no hitting. Abuse can be verbal, emotional, physical, sexual or a combination.

Signs that you are in an abusive relationship

- Your boyfriend or girlfriend calls or texts frequently to find out where you are, what you are doing or whom you are with.
- Your boyfriend or girlfriend tells you what to wear.
- You feel you have to be with them all the time.
- Your boyfriend or girlfriend acts jealous, possessive, controlling or bossy.

- Your boyfriend or girlfriend gives you orders or makes all the decisions.
- Your boyfriend or girlfriend gets angry quickly or fights a lot.
- Your boyfriend or girlfriend threatens to hurt you or someone in your family if you don't do what they want.
- Your boyfriend or girlfriend threatens to hurt themselves if you don't do what they want.
- Your boyfriend or girlfriend refuses to accept that the relationship is not working or is over.

ADULT OFFENDERS

You have the right to feel safe, and more importantly, be safe in your home, school, and community. There are many laws protecting juveniles from sexual abuse and exploitation by adults. Any behavior or act which makes you uncomfortable should immediately be reported to a trustworthy adult, the police or any of the other resources listed in this book.

There are many strategies and resources available that may reduce your risk of being abused. Many of these can be found on the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children website at http://www.missingkids.com/home.

THINGS YOU CAN DO

Abuse can be unpredictable and dangerous. No two situations are alike, and there are no guarantees that what works for one person will work for another. Yet you can take steps to increase safety:

- If you are in immediate danger, call 911.
- Trust your instincts. Don't downplay the danger. If you feel unsafe, you probably are.
- Take threats seriously. Danger often is highest when the abuser talks about suicide or murder, or when the victim tries to leave or end the relationship.
- Tell your friends, roommates and others about the abuse and seek their support.

For immediate assistance, call 911.

The National Center for Victims of Crime can help you make a safety plan, learn more about your legal rights, and find help in your area. Contact 855.4.VICTIM (855.484.2846). Get more information at www.ncvc.org.

PREVENTING SUICIDE

Suicide is Preventable. Talk with someone and get help.

What are the signs?

- Talking about dying
- Change in personality
- Recent loss
- Change in behavior
- Change in sleep patterns
- Change in eating habits
- Fear of losing control
- Low self esteem
- No hope for the future

There are many types of crises that affect people differently. Some other issues that can affect you are:

- Relationship issues
- Family crises
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Substance abuse
- Bullying
- Stress
- Disability

There are many resources that provide you with the assistance that you need, including contacting 911 and requesting a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Officer. CIT officers are trained to handle mental health situations.

You can contact Colorado Crisis Services at 1.844.493.TALK (1.844.493.8255) or text TALK to 38255 to speak with a trained professional or visit *ColoradoCrisisServices.org* to chat with someone live or get more information. They provide confidential and immediate support 24/7/365.

THE DANGERS OF FIREARMS

All guns are potentially dangerous. They should always be treated seriously. Hundreds of people are killed accidentally by firearms each year. Guns should always be secured and out of children's reach. Proper gun training is important as you can easily kill yourself or another person by handling or playing with a gun.

Things you should know

It is illegal for someone under the age of 18 to possess a handgun in Colorado.

Even if you just hold a gun while looking at it or playing with it, or keep it in a school locker, gym bag, or place in the bushes, this is still considered control and possession of a gun.

You can also be charged with menacing, or the unlawful display of a weapon, even if it is not pointed at a person, just by showing it off.

To obtain a concealed handgun permit, you must apply at the sheriff's office in the county where you reside. To qualify, you must: be at least 21 years old, be a legal resident of Colorado, be eligible to possess a firearm under state or federal law, and attend a concealed carry class where you demonstrate competence with a handgun.

It is illegal for someone younger than 16 to own a BB gun, air rifle, electronic stun device or other weapon, while the law may allow those ages 16 to 18 to legally do so.

If you have a weapon and you are stopped by police

If you are stopped by a police officer and you have a weapon, or even something that looks like a weapon, put your hands in the air and tell the police officer what you have and where it is located. Never pull the weapon out or reach for it for any reason.

BB guns and airsoft guns can look very realistic. It may not always be easy to tell them apart!

Police officers are trained to react to an immediate threat to themselves and to the lives of others- sometimes with deadly force. Officers do not know if what you are holding is a real gun. Never point a gun, a toy gun or gun-like device at officers or anyone else. Some guns are equipped with laser targeting, so never point any type of laser device at the police.

If someone confronts you with a weapon

- Stay calm. Leave if possible.
- Avoid rushing or agitating the individual.
- Focus on the individual - not the weapon.
- Use words to negotiate. Step back and buy time.
- Immediately report the incident to the police by calling 911. Provide the dispatcher with a detailed description of the individual with the gun.

If you see a weapon in public or even in a private area, do not touch it. Keep it out of the reach of children and contact an adult or the police immediately.

Weapons-Free Zones

All Aurora Public Schools and Cherry Creek Schools are weapon's-free zones. Weapons of any kind, even fake weapons, are not allowed on school grounds. School administrators consider violations of this policy on a case-by-case basis to determine appropriate disciplinary actions.

For more information about the policy visit: http://aurorak12.org or www.cherrycreekschools.org

GET INVOLVED

How can you get involved?

If you are looking to help build relationships between the Aurora Police Department and the community, particularly youth, there are several organizations that you can join.

Aurora Police Explorers

Aurora Police Explorers is a program geared toward young men and women ages 15-21. Explorers gain valuable insight into the field of law enforcement while serving the community and Police Department. They receive basic law enforcement training, partake in a ride-alongs, participate in social events, volunteer, and compete against other Explorer posts from around the country. Aurora Police Explorers also offers college scholarship opportunities.

For more information call 303.739.1820 or visit www.auroraexplorers.com/.

Teen Citizen Police Academy

Interested in law enforcement? Learn more about the daily functions of the police department and what police officers do. The Teen Academy is open to young men and women who are students at a high school (freshmen-seniors). Classes will be held over a two week period, with

daily morning (8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) or afternoon (1-5 p.m.) classes mostly at the Aurora Room in the Aurora Municipal Center. For more information visit www.auroragov.org and click Residents followed by Youth Resources.

Teen Court

Are you interested in becoming an attorney, judge or police officer? Are you looking for ways to get more involved in your community, develop your public speaking skills, learn about the law, or do you have an interest in the criminal justice system? Teen Court is the perfect program for you. Teen Court educates Aurora youth about the judicial branch and its processes. Teen Court gives students the opportunity to serve as attorneys, jury members and even bailiffs in the juvenile justice system.

For more information call 303.739.6543 or visit: www.auroragov.org and click Residents followed by Youth Resources. You can also visit www.auroragov.org and click Residents followed by Youth resources.

You can find information about the following: 911 Rules for Kids - Learn the proper way to use 911.

Bicycle Safety - The Aurora Police Department wants you to be safe when riding your bike on city streets.

Emergency Preparedness for Youth - Even children and teens can help during times of emergencies and disasters. Learn how to prepare a 72-hour kit and tips for your pets. CERT classes for teens also are available.

Youth Commission - Future leaders of Aurora, sign up and make a difference in your community through government.

Youth Development - The Office of Youth Development is committed to creating a community in which everyone helps build positive life-enhancing skills, attitudes and behaviors in our youth.

Become engaged at school or through your community. Talk with your athletic director or school counselor to learn more about the different extracurricular activities your school has to offer. You may be interested in sports, theater, student government or any of the other programs available to you.

The city of Aurora also offers ways to get involved through volunteering. Check out AuroraGov.org/volunteer to find out how you can become more involved in your community.

UNDERSTANDING TRAFFIC LAWS

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT TEAMS

Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic (H.E.A.T.) Unit

The Police Department created the H.E.A.T. unit in August 2015. The unit was created to address the high number of fatal and serious injury crashes that were occurring on the interstate highways within the city. The interstate highway system makes up less than 1 percent of the total miles of roadway in the city, but crash data indicated that over 20 percent of the fatalities were occurring on that small percentage of roadway.

The three top causes of fatal crashes:

- Speeding
- Not wearing seat belts
- Distracted driving

The H.E.A.T officers target primarily aggressive and speeding drivers, and people not wearing seatbelts.

We ask that all drivers and passengers follow traffic laws, and use your safety equipment. If you choose to not drive safely and in compliance with the law, you can expect to have a meeting with a H.E.A.T. officer and to leave that meeting with a ticket. Please help us improve the level of safety on the interstate highways by using your seat belt and obeying the posted speed limit.

MOTORCYCLE ENFORCEMENT TEAM (M.E.T.)

The Motorcycle Enforcement Team is responsible for the enforcement of traffic laws throughout the city. Unlike the H.E.A.T. officers who focus strictly on the interstate highways, the M.E.T. officers can be found working in neighborhoods and school zones where drivers do not obey traffic safety laws.

M.E.T. Officers:

- Use both laser and radar units to measure the speed of vehicles.
- Ride police motorcycles, and that is their primary enforcement vehicle.
- Are responsible for presidential/dignitary motorcades, and creating traffic plans for large special events such as the July 4th fireworks display.

When you see a vehicle behind you with red and blue lights and/or sirens, you should:

- Stay calm and safely pull over to the right side of the road.
- Stay in your car, and tell all passengers to stay in the car.
- Keep your hands visible.
- Follow the directions of the officer.
- Drivers are required by Colorado law to show their license, registration and valid proof of insurance to a police officer who has stopped them and requested to see those items.
- Be courteous and honest with the officer, and please ask for an explanation if you don't understand something.
- If you receive a ticket, you have a right to contest the ticket in court.
- If you disagree with the ticket, please bring those reasons for disagreement up in court, and not on the side of the road.
- Signing or accepting a ticket is not an automatic admission of guilt.

You can be stopped for what some drivers may feel are only minor traffic infractions such as inoperative equipment, excessively dark window tint, not having both license plates, improper turns or failing to use a signal. While some may feel these are very minor infractions, they are still valid legal reasons to stop a vehicle. It is the officer's job to investigate all infractions, no matter how minor they may seem.

Police officers may stop a vehicle for the following reasons:

- The officer observed a primary traffic violation.
- The officer has probable cause to make an arrest.
- The officer has reasonable suspicion of criminal activity based on personal observations, information from other police officers, the police radio or witnesses.
- The officer has knowledge of outstanding warrants for occupants of the vehicle.

REASONABLE SUSPICION STOPS, OR "TERRY STOPS" OF VEHICLES

A police officer can stop a vehicle and ask the driver questions if the officer reasonably suspects that the driver in the vehicle has committed, is committing or is about to commit a crime. The officer does not need to have probable cause to arrest the driver at the time of the stop, but does need to have reasonable suspicion that the driver is involved in criminal activity. Evidence obtained by the officer during the stop is admissible in court as long as the officer had reasonable suspicion the driver was involved in criminal activity.

TRAFFIC STOPS

Officers can conduct traffic stops for various reasons. The most common reason for a traffic stop is because of a violation of the vehicle code. Other reasons include: people in the car possibly being involved in criminal activity, outstanding warrants associated with the car or occupants, or safety concerns such as items hanging off of and/or dragging from the vehicle.

LEAVING THE SCENE OF A CRASH

(Hit and Run): 42-4-1601/1602

If you are involved in a crash you are required:

- To remain at the scene of the crash.
- You will need to call the local law enforcement agency where the crash took place to report the crash.
- All drivers involved in the crash must provide their driver's license information, vehicle registration information, and vehicle insurance information.

- If there is an accident alert in effect at the time of the crash, dispatchers will tell all drivers involved to exchange the above listed information, and complete a report on-line when you get home.

If you leave the scene of a crash, it is a traffic misdemeanor. If you are convicted, you could face fines, and a driver's license suspension. If you are involved in a crash where someone is seriously injured or killed and you leave the scene, it is a felony. If you are convicted, you could face fines, prison time, and a driver's license suspension. Everyone has a phone with a camera, and many people have dash cams, so the likelihood of getting caught if you leave the scene of a crash is very high.

TRAFFIC LAWS & RULES

The following is a guide to city and state traffic laws that are most useful for young people to know. Understanding traffic laws could be useful to making decisions that will keep you out of trouble.

Note: CRS stands for Colorado Revised Statues, which are state laws. Municipal Code refers to city ordinances that are laws within the city of Aurora.

DROVE VEHICLE WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS OR BOTH

(CRS 42-4-1301)

If you are driving while under the influence of an intoxicant, while being less than 21 years old, and have a blood-alcohol content above 0.02 percent, you can be charged with Driving Under the Influence. Police are trained to detect and recognize people who are under the influence of alcohol, marijuana and other substances.

If an officer detects an odor of marijuana or alcohol in your car, they have to determine if you are high or drunk prior to letting you drive away. The odor of alcohol or marijuana can provide probable cause in some situations.

Remember that prescription medications, and some over-the-counter medications, can also impair your ability to safely operate a vehicle. While it is not illegal to use prescription medications as directed by your doctor, it may be illegal to drive a car after taking the medication. You can be arrested for Driving Under the Influence if you are driving while impaired by medication.

DUI is one of the leading causes of fatal traffic crashes in the state of Colorado. We cannot stress to you enough the dangers associated with impaired driving. Choosing to drive while impaired not only puts you at risk, but it also threatens the life and safety of everyone else on the road around you.

MOTOR VEHICLE TRESPASS

(Municipal Code 94-83)

If a person knowingly and unlawfully enters or remains in a motor vehicle of another, they can be arrested for Motor Vehicle Trespass.

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

(Municipal Code 94-75)

Taking a vehicle without the permission of the owner or person in charge of the vehicle can result in a Motor Vehicle Theft charge. If you are the passenger in a stolen vehicle, you could also be charged with Motor Vehicle Theft and/or Motor Vehicle Trespass. If you suspect that a vehicle is stolen, do not get in.

Here are some obvious signs of a stolen vehicle:

- Additional license plates in the car.
- There is no key in the ignition, but the engine is running.
- The steering column is damaged or cracked.
- The ignition is covered with a towel or rag.
- Window glass is broken out.
- Wires are hanging out of the steering column or under the dash.

DRIVING WITHOUT A VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE

(CRS 42-2-101)

Driving without a valid driver's license is illegal. If you are convicted, you can receive a fine and/or jail time.

If you are driving a vehicle, you must have a valid driver's license in your possession. If you are stopped and asked to present your license by a police officer, you must show it to the officer. If you forgot or misplaced your license, show the officer another form of identification and provide them with your full name and date of birth. Your name and date of birth will allow the officer to verify your driver's license and issue you a ticket rather than arrest you.

If you refuse to show the officer your identification, refuse to verbally identify yourself, lie about your identity or sign the wrong name on a summons, your vehicle may be impounded and you can be arrested for Making a False Statement, or Obstructing a Law Enforcement Officer.

GRADUATED DRIVER'S LICENSE RESTRICTIONS

(CRS 42-4-116)

There are several restrictions that apply to new drivers under the Graduated Driver's License system in Colorado.

- You may not drive a vehicle with a passenger younger than 21 years old who is not a member of your immediate family (brothers and sisters) until you have had your license for at least six months.
- You may not drive a vehicle with more than one passenger younger than 21 years old who is not a member of your immediate family (brothers and sisters) until you have had your license for at least one year.
- You may not operate a vehicle between midnight and 5 a.m. until have had your license for at least one year.

THE DANGERS OF STREET RACING SPEED CONTEST

(CRS 42-4-1105)

Street racing is willful and irresponsible behavior, and will not be tolerated. Disregarding your safety and that of everyone else on the road is completely irresponsible.

What you need to know:

- If you are involved in a race on a public roadway, you will be charged with Speed Contest.
- This is a serious offense, and you will most likely lose your driver's license and have to deal with drastically increased insurance rates.
- Street racing is extremely dangerous and has caused many people to lose their lives.
- There are so many things that can go wrong during street racing, and many of those things are beyond your control.
- You have no control over someone pulling into your path from a driveway or a side street, or a pedestrian or animal running into the street.

- If you think that because you had the right of way that you won't be criminally charged in the crash, you're wrong! The courts have decided that if you are racing or significantly exceeding the speed limit, you have given up your right of way.
- Other drivers are not expecting another car to be traveling 2, 3, or 4+ times the speed limit on a roadway, so when they are deciding if it is safe to pull into traffic, they can't perceive how fast that other car is closing on them.
- This situation is made much worse after dark, because our depth perception and ability to tell how fast something is approaching diminish greatly in the dark.

Street racing obviously involves speeding, and speeding has been one of the top three causation factors in fatal crashes in Colorado for the past several years.

Our roadways are designed for drivers to travel at or below the posted speed limit depending upon weather conditions, never over the posted limit. Regardless of what car you have, or how good of a driver you perceive yourself to be, the odds are definitely not in your favor if you choose to make a reckless decision and get involved in a street race.

SPEEDING

(CRS 42-4-1101)

If you exceed the posted speed limit by even 1 mile per hour, you can be given a ticket. The fines and points associated with a speeding ticket will be determined by how many miles per hour over the posted speed limit you were going. Officers utilize lasers, radars and pacing to determine your speed.

SPEEDING TOO FAST FOR CONDITIONS

(CRS 42-4-1101)

When less than favorable driving conditions exist, you can get a speeding ticket even if you are driving under the posted speed limit.

Examples of conditions where you must reduce your speed are:

- Snow/ice covered roads
- School zones
- Construction zones
- Ares of unusually heavy pedestrian traffic

ELUDING / ATTEMPTING TO ELUDE POLICE

(CRS 42-4-1413)

If a driver fails or refuses to immediately bring their vehicle to a stop, or drives in a reckless manner after being signaled to stop by the use of emergency lights and/or siren, the driver can be charged with Eluding.

If you are convicted of Eluding/Attempting to Elude Police, your driver's license will most likely be revoked.

SOUND AMPLIFYING EQUIPMENT

(Municipal Code 94-109)

If you have sound-amplifying equipment in your vehicle, you should know that your equipment should not be plainly heard 25 feet from your vehicle. Enjoy your music, but remember not everyone wants to listen to your music. Keep it at a reasonable volume.

DON'T TEXT & DRIVE

Misuse of a Wireless Telephone

(CRS 42-4-239)

Facts about the law:

- Any driver under 18 years of age is not permitted to use a wireless telephone in any manner while driving a vehicle.
- It is prohibited for any driver 18 years of age or older to operate a vehicle in a careless or imprudent manor while using a wireless telephone for the purpose of manual data entry or transmission.

The purpose of this law is to reduce distracted driving. Many drivers and pedestrians don't realize just how dangerous it is to drive or walk while distracted. Driving or walking while you're typing or reading a text message or email is extremely dangerous for you, and everyone around you. Almost all of us have seen someone texting and driving, and had to take steps to avoid that other driver, and keep them from hitting us. Not only is it very rude and annoying, but it is far more dangerous than most people realize. Unfortunately, there are numerous stories of people driving while texting and killing people, or of pedestrians walking into traffic or off of a train platform while texting and dying from their injuries.

We are always hearing people talk about multitasking, and how being efficient at multitasking is a valuable trait. The truth is that we humans can't multitask; we actually lack the mental ability to multitask. Humans can do many things in very close succession, but can actually only do one thing at a time. To put it in computer terms, our brains are single core processors. Distracted driving is such a threat to traffic safety that it will likely surpass impaired driving in the number of deaths caused by it per year in the near future.

LEAVING THE SCENE OF A CRASH (HIT AND RUN)

42-4-1601/1602

If you are involved in a crash you are required:

- To remain at the scene of the crash.
- You will need to call the local law enforcement agency where the crash took place to report the crash.
- All drivers involved in the crash must provide their driver's license information, vehicle registration information, and vehicle insurance information.
- If there is an accident alert in effect at the time of the crash, dispatchers will tell all drivers involved to exchange the above listed information, and complete a report on-line when you get home.

If you leave the scene of a crash, it is a traffic misdemeanor. If you are convicted, you could face fines, and a driver's license suspension. If you are involved in a crash where someone is seriously injured or killed and you leave the scene, it is a felony. If you are convicted, you could face fines, prison time, and a driver's license suspension. Everyone has a phone with a camera, and many people have dash cams, so the likelihood of getting caught if you leave the scene of a crash is very high.

STEER CLEAR OF SMOKING WITH KIDS IN THE CAR

In order to support public health and protect children from the dangers of secondhand smoke, the aurora city council approved an ordinance in 2018 that bans smoking in cars when juveniles are present.

Know the law!

Aurora police can issue a summons to people smoking in vehicles where juveniles are present. This is a secondary offense, meaning you must be contacted by police for a separate alleged traffic violation

or other offense in order to be issued a summons for smoking.

What does the law ban?

No one is allowed to smoke in a motor vehicle in the city of aurora when a juvenile (anyone younger than 18 years old) is in the vehicle. It does not matter whether the vehicle is parked or in motion, or whether the person is a driver or passenger. "Smoke" or "smoking" means to inhale, exhale, burn or possess a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe or other smoking equipment (such as an electronic device) that contains tobacco, nicotine or marijuana.

What is the penalty?

Violators of code 95-349 may face a fine in municipal court, but the ordinance states that courts are to offer community service as an alternative option.

EVERY 15 MINUTES

Life's lessons are best learned through experience. Unfortunately, when the target audience are teens and the topic is impaired and distracted driving, experience is not the teacher of choice.

Did you know that traffic collisions are the leading cause of death among teenagers? In fact, approximately every 15 minutes, someone in the United States is injured or killed in an impaired-driving-related incident. The city of Aurora, in conjunction with the Aurora Police Department and Aurora Public Schools, is taking a proactive step educating local high school students about making mature decisions when drug and alcoholic beverages are involved.

The Every 15 Minutes Program is a two-day program that offers real-life experience without the real-life risks. This emotionally charged program is designed to dramatically instill teenagers with the potentially dangerous consequences of driving impaired and distracted. It challenges students to think about drinking, personal safety and the responsibility of making mature decisions when lives are involved.

The Every 15 Minutes Program includes participants from a cross-section of our community to include the police department, fire department, school districts, hospitals, courts, coroner's office, video production crew and community officials. It is our goal to utilize the strength, talent and resources of business and industry to prevent distracted and impaired driving with our youth.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN

Glossary of Police Terms

Arrest Warrant - a warrant (or order) issued by a judge that authorizes police to detain/take someone into custody

Crime - an act that violates city laws (Aurora Municipal Code), state laws (Colorado Revised Statutes) or federal laws (U.S. Code)

Custody - being kept by police in a prison, jail or other facility or place where the person is not allowed to leave

Consensual Contact - interactions with police at community meetings or in other settings in which an officer isn't responding to a call for service or investigating a crime, such as walking by on a sidewalk or at a store

Formal Contact - interactions with police that are driven by a call for service or an investigation into a crime

Infraction - a violation of the law, typically associated with violations of traffic laws

Investigative Detention (a.k.a. Terry Stop) - being temporarily held by police when they have reasonable suspicion that a person may have been involved in a crime, but they don't yet have probable cause to make an arrest

Reasonable Suspicion – the point when police have sufficient reason to believe that a person has been involved in or is going to be involved in a crime. Reasonable suspicion is more than a hunch; it is based on particular facts.

Probable Cause – a higher standard than reasonable suspicion, probable cause is the point when police have sufficient reason to make an arrest or obtain a warrant for an arrest because of a person's suspected involvement in a crime, or to obtain a search warrant to search a person's property because police believe they will find evidence of a crime or contraband

Protective Frisk, Pat Down – police pass their hands over a person's outer garments for weapons to ensure the encounter can continue without the officer worrying that the individual has a weapon

Questioning – being questioned by police so that police can get information or a statement

Search Incident to Arrest – a search of a person and their immediate surroundings when they have been arrested

Search Warrant – a document signed by a judge that authorizes police to enter and search a person's property (home, vehicle, workplace, computers, phones, etc.)

Summons - an order to appear before a court

Violation – another word for infraction or crime; a violation is a breach of the law

THE BILL OF RIGHTS

BILL OF RIGHTS

First Amendment: A way to remember the First Amendment is with this acronym: R.A.P.P.S.

Religion: Government shall not endorse a religion or prevent someone from practicing their religion

Assemble: The right to gather with other people for a common cause

Petition: The right for multiple people to sign a document in order to get public officials' attention on issues

Press: The right to circulate opinions without censorship by the government

Speech: The right to communicate one's opinions and ideas without fear of government retaliation or censorship

Second Amendment: Right to bear arms: With certain requirements (age and licensure), you are permitted to own guns as long as you are not a convicted felon

Fourth Amendment: Protection against unreasonable search and seizure: Police must have probable cause or a search warrant/warrant for arrest to search or detain you or your possessions

Fifth Amendment - Due process: Any citizen charged with a crime will be given a fair trial that follows a defined procedure through the judicial branch

Self-incrimination ("Pleading the Fifth"): A person can't be forced to testify against themselves

Miranda Warning: While in custody, the police must advise you of your rights prior to questioning.

- You have the right to remain silent and refuse to answer questions.
- Anything you say may be used against you in a court of law.
- You have the right to consult an attorney before speaking to the police and to have an attorney present during questioning now or in the future.
- If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed for you before any questioning if you wish.
- If you decide to answer questions now without an attorney present, you will still have the right to stop answering at any time until you talk to an attorney.
- Knowing and understanding your rights as I have explained them to you, are you willing to answer my questions without an attorney present?

Double jeopardy: One person can't be tried for the same crime more than once.

Sixth Amendment: Right to a speedy trial: Accused have the right to a fast and public trial

Seventh Amendment: Right to an impartial jury of peers

Eighth Amendment: No cruel and unusual punishment; no excessive bail

UNDERSTANDING CRIMINAL LAWS

The following is a guide to city and state laws that are most useful for young people to know. Understanding the law could help you make decisions that will keep you out of trouble.

Note: *CRS stands for Colorado Revised Statues, which are state laws. Municipal Code refers to City Ordinances that are laws within the city of Aurora.*

To view a full list of the Colorado Revised Statues visit: http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/michie/

To view a full list of Municipal Codes visit: https://library.municode.com/co/aurora/codes/code_of_ordinances

ROBBERY, THEFT & BURGLARY

Robbery (CRS 18-4-301)

Robbery is when a person knowingly takes anything of value from another person or in the presence of another person by the use of force, threats or intimidation.

Burglary (CRS 18-4-202)

Burglaries are different from robberies and thefts because a person has to knowingly enter a building or house unlawfully, or remain unlawfully after a lawful or unlawful entry, with intent to commit a crime, other than trespass.

THEFT

(Municipal Code 94-74)

Theft is when a person knowingly obtains, retains or exercises control over anything of value that belongs to another person without that person's permission. The goal is usually to deprive that person permanently of the thing of value. Stealing property, shoplifting, not paying for services, and stealing items from vehicles are considered theft.

WHEN YOU ARE IN SCHOOL TAGGING AND GRAFFITI - DEFACING PROPERTY

(Municipal Code 94-81)

Defacing property is when a person knowingly or recklessly defaces public or private property without the consent of the owner by any method, including but not limited to painting, drawing, scratching, inscribing or writing, by use of paint, spray paint, markers, ink or any other method of defacement. It's simple: Don't tag or paint on public or private property. You can be artistic and display your artwork in appropriate settings such your personal notebook or art shows.

DISTURBING THE PEACE

(Municipal Code 94-107)

Police can make a determination as to whether a person is disturbing the peace by making or causing unreasonably loud or unusual noise in a public or private area. The disturbance has to seriously inconvenience other people in the area.

TRESPASSING

(Municipal Code 94-71)

If you enter a private property, such a business or home, where signs are posted and you are there without permission, you

are trespassing. Police can give a warning or citation and remove people who are trespassing.

Most public places such as parks have posted hours of operation near the entrance. If you are in a park, make sure you are aware of the hours set for that park. If you are in the park outside of those hours, you could be found guilty of trespassing.

LOITERING UPON OR NEAR SCHOOL GROUNDS

(Municipal Code 94-72)

You can be found guilty of loitering on or around a school if you are interfering or disrupting the school program or if you interfere with or endanger schoolchildren in a school building or on school grounds or within 100 feet of school grounds. You can also be found guilty if you do not have a legitimate reason for being there and have been asked to leave by a school administrator or police officer.

YOUR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS

What Is Truancy?

Aurora Public Schools, Cherry Creek School District and district leaders are committed to helping every student shape a successful future. In order to ensure student success, it is imperative that students attend school every day.

Students who are chronically absent from school lose valuable instruction time and risk falling behind academically. Chronic absence is defined as missing 10 percent of school days, which is roughly equivalent to two school days per month. Aurora Public Schools is committed to working with families to remove barriers to attendance and support students' engagement in school. Research suggests non-punitive approaches collaboratively developed by staff and family are most effective for improving attendance. However, if additional resources or support are needed, schools may file for truancy in Arapahoe or Adams County Truancy Court.

For more information about the truancy policy, go to http://aurorak12.org/pol-reg/SectionJ/jhb.pdf

PARTIES & HANGING OUT CONSUMING ALCOHOL - POSSESSION OR CONSUMPTION IN PUBLIC PLACE OR PARK

(Municipal Code 94-313)

It is unlawful for any person under 21 years of age to possess or consume alcohol in any store, in any public place or in any area open to the public, including alleys, highways, roads, streets and ways, or upon property owned by either the state or the city, or inside a vehicle while upon alleys, highways, roads, streets and ways.

CURFEW HOURS

(Municipal Code 94-341)

Any person younger than 18 years old cannot wander any street, alley, sidewalk, park, recreation center or common area in Aurora after 11 p.m. or before 5 a.m. unless with a parent or guardian or a person at least 21 years old with permission. On Fridays and Saturdays, curfew time for minors is extended to midnight.

Parent and guardian responsibility for curfew:

A parent or guardian may not allow a minor to wander or loiter in Aurora after 11 p.m. or before 5 a.m. unless a parent or guardian or a person at least 21 years old accompanies them.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

(Municipal Code 94-110)

If you knowingly and recklessly do the following, you are participating in disorderly conduct:

- Addressing abusive language or threats to any person present that creates a clear and present danger of violence.
- Fighting with another person in a public place.
- Without authorization, altering or befouling public property or the property of another person so as to create a hazardous, unhealthy or physically offensive condition.

- Failing to obey a lawful order or command by a peace officer, firefighter, marshal or detention officer acting under the color of official authority that causes or is likely to cause harm or a serious inconvenience.

MENACING & HARASSMENT

Menacing

(Municipal Code 94-41)

A person commits the crime of menacing if, by any threat or physical action, that person knowingly places or attempts to place another person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury.

Harassment
(Municipal Code 94-42)

A person commits harassment if, with intent to harass, threaten or abuse another person, that person:

- Strikes, shoves, kicks or otherwise touches a person or directly or indirectly subjects him or her to harmful, painful or offensive contact.
- In a public place, directs obscene language or makes an obscene gesture to or at another person.
- Follows a person in or about a public place.
- Initiates communication with a person, anonymously or otherwise, in a manner intended to harass or threaten bodily harm or property damage, or makes any comment, request, suggestion or proposal that is obscene.
- Initiates communication or makes a telephone call or causes a telephone to ring repeatedly, whether or not a conversation ensues, with no purpose of legitimate conversation.
- Makes repeated communications at inconvenient hours that invade the privacy of another and interferes with the use and enjoyment of another's home or private residence or other private property.
- Repeatedly insults, taunts, challenges or makes communications in offensively coarse language to another in a manner likely to provoke a violent or disorderly response.
- Delivers or causes delivery of written, printed or graphic material or any object that harasses another person or threatens bodily injury or property damage to or against another person.

HOW TO REPORT A CRIME

There are different ways to report a crime.

If reporting an emergency, please dial 911. A call to 911 means that immediate action is needed from the police. You can also send a text message to 911 if you feel that a voice call is risky, if you have limited cellphone reception or if you are hearing impaired. Not every jurisdiction offers text-to-911 service, and you will receive a bounce-back text if the service is unavailable.

EMERGENCY: 911

When you should dial 911:

- Burglary or theft in progress
- Domestic violence
- Suspicious activity
- Drunken driver
- Fighting
- Serious crime that has just happened; for example, sexual assault
- When reporting a crime that does not need a speedy response from the police, call the non-emergency line.

NON-EMERGENCY:

303.627.3100

When you should dial the non-emergency line:

- Crime with no suspect (for example, license plate theft)
- Crime without a suspect on the scene (for example, fraud)
- Crime with a suspect, but with a long delay (for example, assault that occurred a day or night before)
- Reporting a noisy party
- Reporting graffiti

FILING A POLICE REPORT

A police report is a document that details an incident or crime. A police report allows the Police Department to open an investigation about the crime.

You may also file a police report about a crime online. To do so, visit: *www.Aurorapolice.com*

Filing the report in person is offered as well. These reports can be made at Police Headquarters.

safe2tell Colorado

1-877-542-7233

safe2tellco.org

Available on the App Store | ANDROID APP ON Google play

You can anonymously report any threatening behavior that endangers you, your friends, your family or your community through Safe2Tell.

CRIME STOPPERS

Report Information on an Unsolved Crime or Individuals Wanted by Police

Call: 720.913.STOP (7867)

Text: DMCS plus your message to 274637

Online: https://www.tipsubmit.com/WebTips.aspx?AgencyID=249

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

You remain anonymous no matter what.

When you call, text or file online to report information on an unsolved crime or individuals wanted by the police, a code number is issued to you.

For information that leads to an arrest, reporters are entitled to monetary awards. Crime Stoppers authorizes its bank to release the award money to you. You can then pick up the award money from Crime Stoppers' bank using the code numbers given to you for identification.

RESOURCES

There are many free and accessible resources for juveniles. If you find yourself needing help, please contact the resources below.

Aurora Police Department, Victim Service Unit

303.739.6087

24-hour Suicide Crisis Line

1.800.784.2433

The Blue Bench 24-hour Rape Crisis Line

303.322.7273

Colorado Crisis Service

1.844.493.8255

GLBT Anti-Violence Crisis Line

303.852.5094

RESOURCES FOR ABUSE AT HOME

Child Abuse: Physical maltreatment or sexual molestation of a child.

Unfortunately, some of us may know someone who has or is currently undergoing different forms of child abuse. Child abuse victims range from infants to 17-year-old teenagers. Abuse and neglect impacts more than 37,000 children a year in Colorado. If you have the capability to help someone who you believe is being abused and neglected, please reach out to one of your local child abuse resources:

- Colorado Department of Human Resources (CDHS) Colorado.gov/cdhs

Please call their NON-EMERGENCY hotline at 1.844.CO-4-Kids (1.844.264.5437) to report any child abuse cases.

- School counselors, teachers, nurses, school resource officers (SRO): These are all people whom you can trust to report a child abuse case to. They are there for your safety not only within the classroom, but outside of it as well. You can trust these people with confidential information, and they will help you through whatever situation regarding child abuse it may be.

Cherry Creek School District Care Line:

720.554.2273

Aurora Public Schools Abuse Hotline:

1.844.264.5437

Prevent Child Abuse Colorado. Please visit
www.preventchildabusecolorado.org.

This organization wants a Colorado where children thrive, communities prosper and all residents take action to ensure the well-being of children. You can also reach them at 1.800.CHILDREN (1.800.244.5373).

For more information on reporting child abuse, please visit:
http://www.cdhsdatamatters.org/

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The city of Aurora also provides access to a list of fundamental resources for young people. Follow the link below for information on classes, programs and resources:

AuroraGov.org/residents/youth_resources

Hunger can be found everywhere. Use the resources available to reduce hunger. Spread the word if you know someone in need.

FoodBankRockies.org/
AmpleHarvest.org/
FoodPantries.org/

DEATH
VALLEY
LSU
AIR JORDAN
AURORA
POLICE
AURORA
POLICE

The Empowering Guide was produced by the Aurora Police Department in partnership with young adults from various organizations. The information provided is intended to guide you and make you more knowledgeable on police policies, laws, and how to interact with police. Our officers enforce the laws for your safety and the safety of the community.

This guide is not intended to serve as a legal document or provide legal advice.

#EmpoweringYouth

Inspired by the Seattle Police Department

Credits

Aurora Police Department • City of Aurora Communications • Photography by Kristen Wilson

Aurora Youth Commission • Aurora Teen Court

Aurora Police Explorers • Aurora Public Schools Students and Staff • NAACP Youth

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

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Tylor Borda- Witten • Kevin Bunting • Malia Canty • Pranav Cheela • Brandon Crockett
Ron Dobbs, Jr. • Bre Fleury • Kevin Flores • Kaitlynne Funderburgh • Jackson Geaui • Betty Hailu
Isaiah Jobson • Jacob Lempert • Kris Pough • Alexandra Pough • Jireh Pulley • Kaila Range
Paola Rivas • Nicholas Rodriguez • Madeline Webb • Eboni Graham

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