

VICTIM OF GRAFFITI? - WHAT TO DO

GRAFFITI is defined as a writing or drawing scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in a public place. In some cases, Graffiti is an expression of art with no criminal intent. However, unwanted or unauthorized Graffiti is a form of Vandalism, which is a crime under the California Penal Code (594 PC).



Graffiti may be considered Hate Speech or a Hate Crime when the writing or speech is abusive or threatening and expresses prejudice against a particular group, especially on the basis of race, religion, or sexual orientation.

Stanford has not been immune to Graffiti with walls, elevators, restrooms, sculptures, buildings, directional signs, and street signs as the usual targets.

If you are a victim of Graffiti that results in damages to property, you should:

- 1) Do not remove it until a Deputy can respond to discuss the best course of action.
- 2) Do cover it if the Graffiti is offensive, abusive, or threatening, until a Deputy can respond.
- 3) Please take a photo(s) of the Graffiti for the report.

If any evidence is left behind such as a spray can, you should not handle it until it is examined and possibly collected by a Deputy to include with a report.

To report an incident of Graffiti, please call the Department of Public Safety at the 24/7 non-emergency number at **(650) 329-2413**.

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