



04-28 Crime Stoppers

Status: Amended

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Rationale

Crime Stoppers is a proactive program operated in partnership with the public, police and media to provide the opportunity for members of the community to anonymously assist the police to solve crimes. If the information leads to the resolution of a case, the caller may be eligible for a cash reward.

Procedure

Toronto Crime Stoppers is an incorporated, private entity, which operates as a registered charity. A group of concerned citizens volunteer to serve on the Board of Directors to oversee the Crime Stoppers program. Board members meet regularly to manage and promote the program, raise funds and authorize and determine the amount of reward payments.

The Crime Stoppers program is funded entirely by Toronto Crime Stoppers. However, the Toronto Police Service (Service) provides a co-ordinator and support staff to manage the day-to-day operations, police officers to promote the various Crime Stoppers programs and staff to take tips called in to the Crime Stoppers hot line, as well as an office at headquarters to house the operation.

Non-Eligibility – Service Members

Service members are **not** eligible to participate in or receive cash rewards from the Crime Stoppers program.

Re-Enactment

The Crime of the Week media appeal is one of the most successful elements of the Crime Stoppers program. Officers wishing to solicit help from the community to solve serious outstanding criminal cases may request the broadcast of surveillance video or a videotaped re-enactment of the crime via the television media. In addition, the information is published in local newspapers and broadcast on local radio stations.

Member

1. When wishing to request a Crime Stoppers re-enactment shall consult with the Crime Stoppers Co-ordinator to determine the suitability of the case for re-enactment.

2. When it is determined that the case is suitable for re-enactment shall submit the request with all necessary information to the Crime Stoppers Co-ordinator.

Crime Stoppers Co-ordinator

3. When assigned as the Crime Stoppers Co-ordinator shall maintain a liaison with the Crime Stoppers Board of Directors and the media.
4. Upon receipt of a request for a Crime Stoppers re-enactment shall arrange a time and date for the re-enactment in consultation with the investigator and Corporate Communications - Video Productions Section.

Investigation

Members of the public who call to give information on the Crime Stoppers line are assured anonymity and are given the same privileges as police informants but are never identified [decision *R. v. Leipert* (Supreme Court of Canada) (1997)].

All information that alleges a person is responsible for a criminal offence must be investigated and verified independently before any action is taken against the named individual.

Crime Stoppers files do not belong to the Service and are not subject to disclosure. Furthermore, no member shall make any confidential Crime Stoppers information available to other members of the Service or another agency without the prior permission of the Crime Stoppers Board of Directors. This permission must be made through the Crime Stoppers Co-ordinator. In addition, Crime Stoppers reports shall not be transcribed, photocopied or attached to any Service reports or crown briefs.

Detective

5. Upon being assigned a Crime Stoppers report shall
 - conduct a complete and thorough investigation
 - complete and submit the Crime Stoppers Disposition Report to the Detective Sergeant

Detective Sergeant or Designate

6. Upon receipt of a Crime Stoppers Disposition Report shall
 - assign a police officer to conduct an investigation
 - advise the Crime Stoppers Co-ordinator of the name of the officer assigned to the case
 - provide Crime Stoppers with an update of the investigation within 21 days
7. When an arrest has been made as a result of information from Crime Stoppers shall
 - comply with the applicable procedures in Chapters 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7
 - advise the Crime Stoppers Co-ordinator
 - complete the applicable eReports, including the applicable MO Detail page
 - forward a copy of the pertinent documents and the applicable eReport numbers to the Crime Stoppers Co-ordinator
8. Upon completion of an investigation initiated by a Crime Stoppers Disposition Report shall return such report to the Crime Stoppers Co-ordinator.

9. Upon receipt of an Update List from the Crime Stoppers Co-ordinator shall complete and return the list forthwith.

Supplementary Information

Governing Authorities

Provincial: Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Other: R. v. Leipert (Supreme Court of Canada) (1997).

Associated Governance

TPS Procedures: Chapter 1 Arrest and Release; Chapter 4 General Investigations; Chapter 5 Criminal Investigations; Chapter 6 Provincial Investigations; Chapter 7 Vehicle Investigations.

Forms: eReports.

We are dedicated to delivering police services, in partnership with our communities, to keep Toronto the best and safest place to be.

Learn more about our Service Core Values and Competencies [here](#)

