



# 04-28 Crime Stoppers

**Status:** Amended

**Issued:** 2024.08.27-0932

**Replaces:** 2024.03.26-0286

## Rationale

Crime Stoppers is a global program operated in partnership with the public, police and media to provide members of the community an opportunity to report criminality utilizing its anonymous reporting platform.

## Procedure

Toronto Crime Stoppers (TCS) is an incorporated, private entity, which operates as a registered charity funded primarily through sponsorship and donations.

The TCS program is governed by a group of citizens who volunteer their time to serve on the Board of Directors. Board members meet regularly to manage and promote the program, and maintain and foster relationships with partners of the program.

The Toronto Police Service (Service) is a separate entity and partner of the TCS program. However, the Service provides a co-ordinator and support staff to manage the day-to-day operations of the program.

## Non-Eligibility – Service Members

Service members are **not** eligible to participate in or receive a cash or enhanced reward from any Crime Stoppers program.

## Spotlight on Crime

A 'Spotlight on Crime' video, media release, bulletin or podcast are often utilized to assist investigators with amplifying a plea for information to help further or solve a case. The information is shared leveraging various social media platforms and media outlets associated to the program.

## Member

1. When making a request to create a 'Spotlight on Crime' video, media release, bulletin or podcast, shall consult with the TCS Coordinator to determine the case status and feasibility.
2. When approved to create a 'Spotlight on Crime' video, media release, bulletin or podcast, shall provide all necessary information, as requested to the TCS Coordinator.

### Toronto Crime Stoppers Co-ordinator

3. When assigned as the TCS Coordinator shall
  - oversee and manage the daily operations of the program and staff; and
  - maintain a liaison with members of the TCS Board of Directors, the Service, the media, and the community.

### 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 corroborated 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 TCS Coordinator.

In addition, Crime Stoppers Tips shall not be printed, recorded, transcribed, photocopied, attached to any Service reports or crown briefs by anyone or organization for the purpose of any court proceeding. Any Crime Stoppers Tip information received should be referenced as 'Anonymous Information Received' in order to provide anonymity and protect the identity of the Tipster.

### Detective or Investigator

4. Upon being assigned a Crime Stoppers Tip shall
  - conduct a complete and thorough investigation
  - comply with the applicable procedures in Chapters 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7
  - when the investigation is concluded, complete and submit the Crime Stoppers Disposition Report by accessing the Disposition link that is included in the Crime Stoppers Tip

### Detective Sergeant or Designate

5. Upon receipt of a Crime Stoppers Tip shall
  - review the Crime Stoppers Tip
  - assign a police officer to conduct an investigation
6. When an investigation is concluded by way of arrest, charges laid, or clears a case as a result of information from Crime Stoppers shall
  - comply with the applicable procedures in Chapters 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7
  - ensure the applicable eReports are completed, including the MO Detail page if required
  - ensure the completed Crime Stoppers Disposition Report has been submitted to TCS, as required

# Supplementary Information

---

## Governing Authorities

**Provincial:**

- Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

**Other:**

- R. v. Leiper (Supreme Court of Canada) (1997)

## Associated Governance

**Toronto Police Service 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](#)

