

ALTERNATIVES TO CALLING THE POLICE

STEPS TO ASK YOURSELF

1. **Is this merely an inconvenience to me?** Can I put up with this and be okay?
2. **No, I need to respond.** Can I handle this on my own, is this something I could try to talk-out with the person?
3. **No, I need back-up.** Is there a friend, neighbor, or someone whom I could call to help me?
4. **No, I need a professional.** Can we use mediation to talk through what's happening or is there an emergency response hotline I could call?
5. **No.** If I call the police do I understand how involving the police could impact me and the other person?

ALTERNATIVE STRUCTURES WE CAN BUILD

Audre Lorde Project's Safe Outside the System seeks to empower community members to be proactive in preventing anti-LGBTQ violence, intervene when violent situations arise, and build stronger relationships between LGBTQ people of color, our allies and the community as a whole.

Philly's Pissed & Philly Stands Up, PP provides direct support to survivors of sexual assault and PSU works with folks who have committed sexual assault or partner abuse to take accountability.

Community-based Approach to Ending Interpersonal Violence started in 2004 in Oakland as a national resource center to create and promote community-based interventions to interpersonal violence.

Incite! is a national activist organization of radical feminists of color advancing a movement to end violence against women of color and our communities through direct action, critical dialogue, and grassroots organizing. Stop Law Enforcement Toolkit and Community Accountability Best Practices

Cure Violence, based in Chicago, is an evidence-based public health approach to reducing shootings and killings. They use trained street violence interrupters and outreach staff, public education campaigns, and community mobilization to counter the violence epidemic. Note: this program is now state-sponsored, which some people feel undermines its efficacy and sustainability.

LIST OF MEDIATION & HOTLINE RESOURCES

MEDIATION:

Community Mediation DC
(240) 766-5311 M-F 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Mediation offers a chance to listen and to be heard, to build relationships, and to develop your own solutions to your own conflict. Mediation works because when people develop their own solutions, these solutions last longer. Mediators are professionally trained volunteers who reflect the diversity of your community. Call or email info@communitymediationdc.org for more information.

RUNAWAY & HOMELESS YOUTH:

National Runaway Safeline
1 (800) RUNAWAY, text 66008, & chat 24/7

Offers support, can mediate talks between family members, can provide free bus tickets home. If you want to avoid mandatory reporting, avoid giving identifying information.

SEVERE HEAT OR COLD:

Hypothermia Shelter Hotline
(800) 535-7252 24/7

They will dispatch a van equipped with water, blankets, gloves and jackets. When it is 32 degrees or below the van can take the person from the street to an emergency shelter or to a hospital if needed. When it is 95 degrees or above the van can transport the person to cooling centers. Transportation is always voluntary.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED BUILDING ALTERNATIVE STRUCTURES TO POLICE IN DC

- **Know your neighborhood:** meet your neighbors: learn their names, who they are, their contact information, say hello when you walk by.
- **Ask bars, restaurants, nightclubs, and music venues to join the Safe Bar Collective:** by training their staff to recognize and respond to harassment and keep communities safe from sexual violence and hate violence using bystander intervention strategies.
- **Learn bystander intervention, de-escalation and street harassment responses:** by getting a group of friends, neighbors, or colleagues together and scheduling a training with the Collective Action for Safe Spaces (CASS). CASS is a local organization that mobilizes the community to end public sexual harassment and assault in the DC area.
- **Volunteer with Community Mediation D.C.:** see above.
- **Join Stop Police Terror Project DC:** SPTP works to oppose police abuses and to build community-led peacekeeping efforts to empower oppressed communities to deal with their own security concerns in Washington DC. SPTP has many campaigns including one to support DC's Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results (NEAR) Act
- **Join Showing Up for Racial Justice DC—Policing:** SURJ-DC-Policing organizes white people around racial justice and police abuse in the District. Get involved by contacting surjdc+policing@gmail.com, hosting political education house parties, facilitating education events, and fundraising for their partner community.

SEXUAL ASSAULT:

DC Rape Crisis Center Hotline
(800) 656-4673 24/7

The Center, committed to the belief that all forms of oppression are linked, helps survivors and their families heal from the aftermath of sexual violence through crisis intervention, counseling, advocacy, community outreach, education, and legal and public policy initiatives. They will connect you to an advocate and other survivor resources.

VICTIM SUPPORT:

DC Victim Hotline | (844) 443-5732 24/7
by call, text, or chat

The hotline provides comprehensive information, resources and referrals in D.C. to connect victims of crime to free resources and help them navigate the physical, financial, legal, and emotional repercussions of crime.

READING LISTS

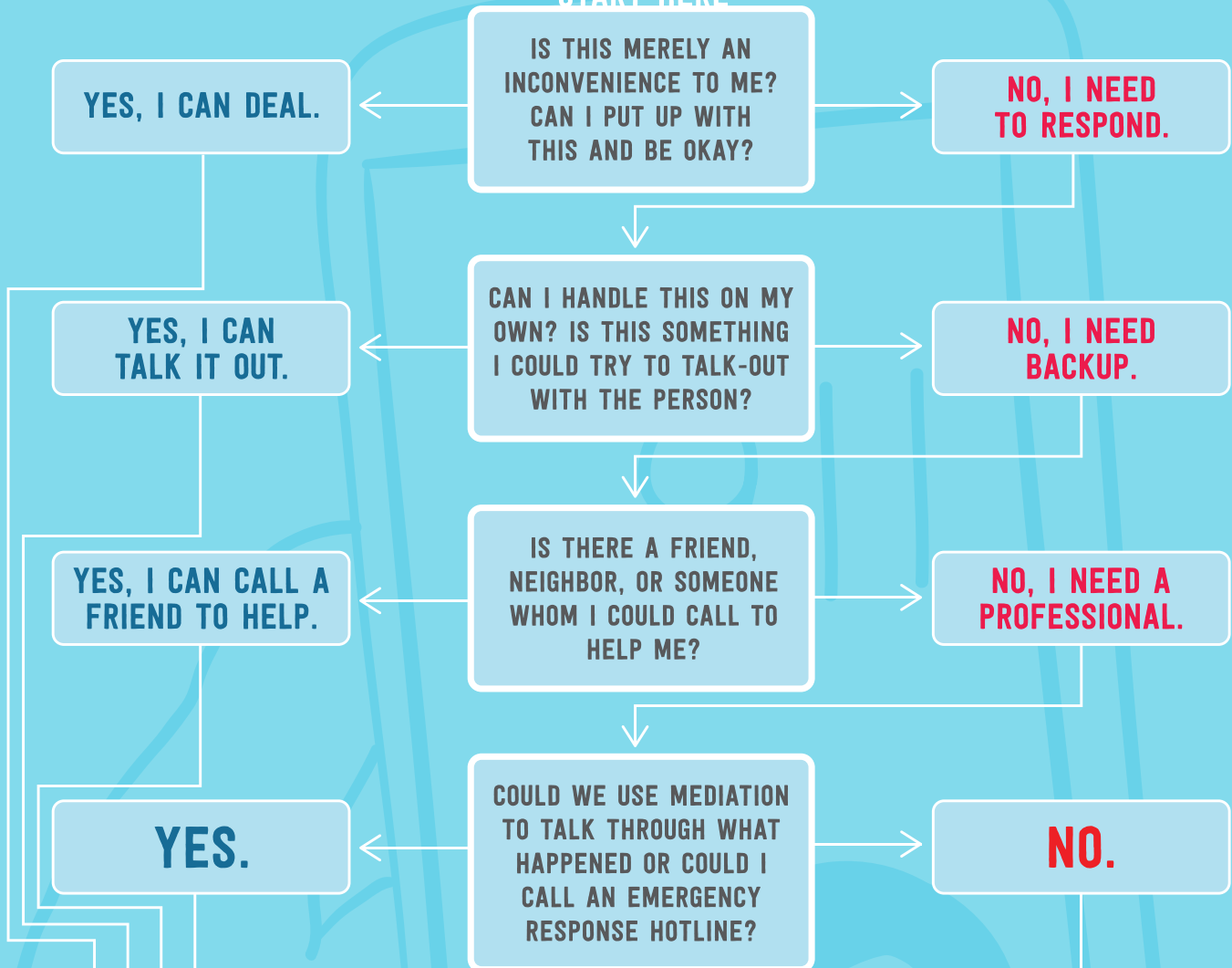
What To Do Instead of Calling the Police A google doc resource guide

Calling Someone Other Than the Cops By Conor Friedersdorf

Feeling for the Edge of your Imagination: finding ways not to call the police By Caroline Loomis

STEPS TO ASK YOURSELF BEFORE CALLING THE POLICE

START HERE



PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

MEDIATION

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RUNAWAY & HOMELESS YOUTH

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SEVERE HEAT OR COLD

HYPOTHERMIA SHELTER HOTLINE
(800) 535-7252 24/7

VICTIM SUPPORT

DC VICTIM HOTLINE
(844) 443-5732 24/7

SEXUAL ASSAULT

DC RAPE CRISIS CENTER HOTLINE
(800) 656-4673 24/7

MY COMMUNITY
AND I HANDLED
THIS SITUATION!

IF I CALL THE POLICE, DO I
UNDERSTAND HOW INVOLVING THE
POLICE COULD IMPACT ME AND THE
OTHER PERSON?

FOR MORE INFORMATION
[BIT.LY/SAFETYBEYONDPOLICE](https://bit.ly/safetybeyondpolice)