

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT



Contact us:

EMERGENCY CALL 911

Covina Police Department

444. N. Citrus Ave.
Covina, CA 91723

Crime Prevention

626-384-5630
cbobkiewicz@covinaca.gov

Non-Emergency Dispatch

626-384-5808

Records Division

(626) 384-5656

Covina Jail

(626) 384-5638

Property / Evidence

(626) 384-5645

Traffic Division

(626) 384-5674

Detective Bureau

(626) 384-5628

Identity Theft

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information to obtain credit, services, or goods without your permission.

The crime of identity theft is defined by California Penal Code Section 530.5, which defines “personal identifying information” as the “name, address, telephone number, driver’s license number, social security number, place of employment, employee identification number, mother’s maiden name, demand deposit account number, or credit card of an individual person.”



Victims of Identity Theft often do not discover this crime until they apply for and are denied credit, or, when they receive credit card statements. Your identity may be stolen a number of ways. It may be stolen by solicitors (telephone or in person). Your identity is also at risk

to theft from your trash and recycle bin.

Tracking identity thieves is difficult due to the passage of time between the crook running up bills and the discovery you’ve been compromised. Identity thieves are also often

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Making a Private Person’s Arrest

One fact often not understood by the public, is that a police officer cannot arrest for a misdemeanor crime not committed in the officer’s presence, with a few exceptions.

Misdemeanors include crimes such as petty theft, most acts of graffiti, and simple battery. A private person’s arrest must occur in order to take an adult to jail for these

crimes when not witnessed by a police officer.

A citizen who witnesses a crime may make a private
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Identity Theft (Continued)

highly mobile; therefore their crimes typically cover many jurisdictions, making them substantially more difficult for law enforcement to investigate.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Consider purchasing a shredder and shred all documents that contain personal information before throwing them in the garbage. Avoid placing outgoing mail in your curbside mailbox. Try to find a nearby “blue” U.S. Postal Service Box to place your outgoing mail into. Don’t carry your social security card or credit cards that you don’t use in your wallet. Scrutinize anyone requesting your social security number. If an institution requests it, ask if it is a requirement. Never write your social security or driver’s license number on your checks. Immediately report lost or stolen credit cards. Run a routine credit check on yourself and your spouse at least once every six months. Identify any questionable accounts and take action. Contact the credit reporting bureaus and obtain credit reports to see if there are other unauthorized accounts:

Equifax (800)525-6285 <http://www.equifax.com>
 Trans Union (800)680-7289 <http://www.tuc.com>
 Experian (888) 397-3742 <http://www.experian.com>

Making a Private Person Arrest (Continued)

person’s arrest of the suspect. Procedurally, responding officer(s) will have the citizen making the arrest sign a misdemeanor complaint form, which gets submitted as part of the police report and later reviewed by the District Attorney’s Office. The citizen making the arrest doesn’t have to confront, speak to, or even be physically near the suspect they arrest, but should be willing to testify in court to the act they witnessed that led to the arrest. If the District Attorney prosecutes the case, the witness testimony will be the most critical component of the case. In many instances, defendants accept a plea deal and witness testimony never takes place. If not for private person arrests, many persons would not be punished for their crimes.

A private person who sees a crime in progress or about to occur, that may be likely to result in injury, property damage, or property loss, should call 911 immediately. In other cases, such as the crime has already been completed by unknown suspect(s) when discovered, the crime should be reported by calling the Covina Police Department (626)384-5808. The officer who responds will know whether a citizen’s arrest is necessary, and explain the process before taking the suspect into custody.

Note that you do not have to physically take the suspect into custody. For your safety, such action is discouraged by the Covina Police Department.

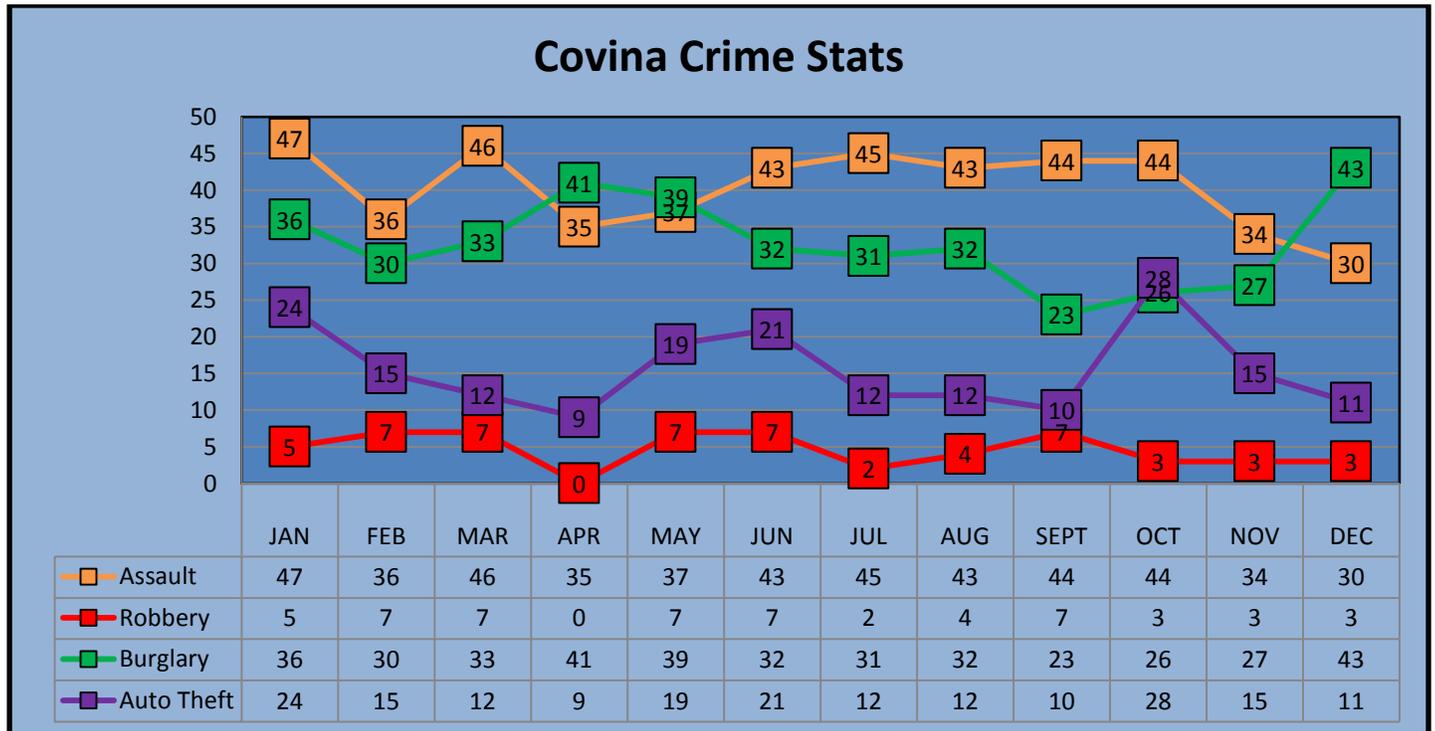
Missing Persons

In California, a missing person is someone whose whereabouts is unknown to the reporting party. This includes any child who may have run away, been taken involuntary or may be in need of assistance. It includes a child illegally taken, held or hidden by a parent or non-parent family member.

There is NO waiting period for reporting a person missing. All California police and sheriffs' departments must accept any report, including a report by telephone, of a missing person, including runaways, without delay and will give priority to the handling of the report.

By making photographs of missing persons available, we seek to aid in the identification and recovery of missing persons. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, one in six missing children are recovered as a direct result of someone recognizing their photo and notifying authorities.

Covina Police Crime Statistics – January 2013



Click the link below to see the crime map

<http://covinaca.gov/crime-information/crimereports.com>

Violent Crimes -13%

- Homicide, Sexual Assault, Aggravated Assault & Robbery

Property Crime -4%

- Burglary, Auto Theft, Larceny & Arson

Calls for Service +2%



Percentages shown are increase or decrease from the previous year to date.