

## We Keep Us Safe: Alternatives to Calling Police in Berkeley

Page 1: When you're in a situation that needs helpers to come, it's natural to want to call 911. However, it's often not the case where you want guns and violence to be part of the response.

How can you make sure to get the right to help?

Page 2: Did you know?

Policing systems historically uphold white supremacy.

1602: A Spanish crew invaded the Alta California coast. One of the first buildings colonists built in the Tongva basin was a jail.

1704: South Carolina imported the slave patrol system granting armed patrollers unrestrained force against Black people.

1838: Boston established the first modern police force to protect property and commercial interests.

1931: UC Berkeley established the first criminology program which included courses on "Race Hygiene."

Page 3: Before calling the police, ask yourself

\*adapted from SURJ DC "Steps to Ask Yourself Before Calling the Police" (2017)

1. Can I put up with this and be okay?
2. If I need to respond can I handle this on my own?
3. If I need backup is there a friend or neighbor I could call to help me?
4. Can we use mediation? Is there an emergency response hotline we could call?
5. If I answered NO to all of these: Do I understand how calling the cops will impact me and the other person?

Page 4: Who you can call other than police?

Alameda County Health and Fire: (510) 444-1616  
-Call for an ambulance without police involvement.

Family Violence Law Center + mobile team: 1 (800) 947-8301  
-Call if you are experiencing or overhearing family and domestic violence issues.

Crisis Support Services of Alameda County: 1 (800) 309-2131  
-Call (or text SAFE to 20121) 4-11PM 7 days a week if you or someone else is struggling with difficult circumstances.

Page 5: Build and strengthen community!

Get to know your neighbors! Help out with tasks like yardwork or carrying groceries.

Prepare together for crisis: Get trained in first-aid harm reduction and crisis de-escalation.  
Organize trainings with your friends and neighbors as a group.

We can build trusted, skilled networks to handle conflicts and keep police away from our neighborhoods, dorms, and classrooms!

Page 6: Get trained with these local orgs

People's Community Medics: grassroots volunteer collective, learn basic emergency first aid, donation-based, can travel to groups. (Peoplescommunitymedics.org)

NEED: 3 Berkeley locations, needle exchange, free harm reduction supplies, overdose prevention training, free Naloxone/Narcan (Berkeleyneed.org 510-463-1843)

Berkeley Copwatch: free online training materials, know your rights with police, as target or bystander. (Berkeleycopwatch.org)

Page 7: What is Abolition?

Abolition is rejecting criminalization and disposability.  
Abolition is dismantling and defunding violent systems.

It is about building real safety through care, support, and accountability. We keep us safe! We can build a better world!

Further Resources:

1. <https://criticalresistance.org/resources/abolitionist-tools/>
2. <https://strikeuniversity.org/Abolitionist-Resources>
3. <https://www.disarmuc.com/#organizing>

Page 8: Questions to ask before calling 911 in the East Bay Area

\*adapted from "DC Alternative to Calling the Police Resource Guide and Flow Chart"

Start with these questions:

- Is this inconvenience but something I can put up with?
- Can I resolve this through better communication?
- Can I handle this alone or with a friend / neighbor?
- Do I need a professional?

Mediation:

City of Berkeley Landlord-Tenant mediation- (510) 981-7368  
SEEDS Community Mediation Service- (510) 542-9238

Fire and medical emergency:  
Alameda mobile dispatch- (510) 444-1616  
UCB Advice Nurse- (510) 643-7197

Mental Health Crisis:  
UHS Counseling- (855) 817-5667  
Alameda Crisis- 1 (800) 309-2131  
LGBTQ+ Youth Trevor Lifeline- 1 (866) 488-7386  
Oakland MH First (Fri&Sat 8PM-8AM)- (510) 999-9MH1

Domestic Violence:  
Family Violence Law Center and mobile team- 1 (800) 947-8301

Support for unhoused folks:  
Call 2-1-1 or text 898211 for free, non-emergency, easy access to housing information, and critical health and human services

Sexual Violence:  
Bay Area Women Against Rape- (510) 845-7273