

Alternatives to Calling the Police - San Francisco ([bit.ly/sf-police-alternatives](https://bit.ly/sf-police-alternatives))

Adapted from Showing Up for Racial Justice, DC resource

Created by [SURJ San Francisco](#)

Poster version at [bit.ly/sf-police-alternatives-poster](https://bit.ly/sf-police-alternatives-poster)

Last updated August 9, 2021

## Questions 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

[The Bay Area Transformative Justice Collective \(BATJC\)](#) is a community group based out of Oakland working to build and support transformative justice responses to child sexual abuse. Their work consists of securing safety and intervening in current violence, while also building long term spaces of accountability and strategies for healing and resilience for all survivors, bystanders, and those who have caused harm.

[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.

[Creative Interventions](#) 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

[The Compassionate Alternative Response Team \(CART\)](#) program seeks to end San Francisco's current police response to homelessness.

[Defund SFPD Now](#) aims to defund SFPD into abolition, and ultimately abolish the prison industrial complex in San Francisco and beyond.

## Opportunities to Get Involved Building Alternative Structures to Police in SF

- Know your neighborhood: Meet your neighbors: learn their names, who they are, their contact information, say hello when you walk by.
- Learn more about a practice called “pod mapping:” The Bay Area Transformative Justice Collective (BATJC) uses “pods” to describe the kind of relationship between people who turn to each other for support around violent, harmful and abusive experiences. Your pod is made up of the people that you would call on if violence, harm or abuse happened to you; or the people that you would call on if you wanted support in taking accountability for violence, harm or abuse that you’ve done; or if you witnessed violence or if someone you care about was being violent or being abused. Building and then relying on your “pod” is one alternative to calling police.
- Learn bystander intervention, deescalation and street harassment responses: [Hollaback!](#) currently offers bystander training virtually. You can also check out online resources offered by [Training for Change](#).
- Get involved with the [Anti Police-Terror Project](#): Based in Oakland, APTP is a Black-led, multi-racial, intergenerational coalition that seeks to build a replicable and sustainable model to eradicate police terror in communities of color.
- Get involved with and/or support [CART](#) (Compassionate Alternative Response Team), which is creating a community-based alternative to the police response to homelessness in San Francisco.
- Get involved with [Defund SFPD Now](#), which is working to defund SFPD into abolition and ultimately abolish the prison industrial complex in San Francisco and beyond.

## List of Mediation & Hotline Resources

### Mediation:

#### Community Boards

Community Boards is a nonprofit conflict resolution center in the United States. The organization offers a range of conflict resolution services: mediation, conflict coaching, facilitation, and trainings. Mediations are provided in Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, or English. Find out more by visiting <https://communityboards.org/> or calling (415) 920-3820.

Monday – Thursday | 10:00am – 6:00pm

Messages after hours: (415) 920-3820 x100

### Crisis Response:

#### Mobile Crisis Team

(415) 970-4000 M-F, 8:30am - 11pm, Sat 12pm - 8pm

The Mobile Crisis Team provides acute mobile psychiatric crisis evaluation and intervention for adults in San Francisco, regardless of insurance. Contact (415) 970-4000.

Please note: In certain circumstances this team would call 911

**Youth services:**

415-682-3278 - 24/7

[Edgewood Crisis Stabilization Unit \(CSU\) program](#)

The Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) program was created in conjunction with the San Francisco Department of Public Health to evaluate and triage children and youth (ages 5-17) who are experiencing acute psychiatric symptoms or a mental health crisis. The Edgewood CSU says it is one of only a few CSUs designed to serve youth 5-17 years of age in the entire state of California and the only one serving youth under 12 in the Bay Area.

Please note: This program requires parent authorization (the caller needs to be a parent, or the program needs to be able to get a hold of the parent). In select circumstances, such as if the youth is considered to be a danger to themselves or others, this program may call 911.

**Rape services:**

[San Francisco Women Against Rape](#)

(415) 647-7273, 24-hour

Notes: In rare circumstances, this program may call 911 (such as in select cases of the caller disclosing suicide risk).

**Reading Lists**

[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

[Creative Interventions Toolkit - A Practical Guide to Stop Interpersonal Violence](#)

[How to Help Someone Who is Suicidal](#)

[How to Not Call the Po'lice Ever](#) - POOR Magazine / POOR Press

**Pg 2: Flow chart SF customization:**

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