

Community Guide: Reporting Street Harassment

The City of Calgary Street Harassment Amendment to Public Behaviour Bylaw 54M2006 goes into effect June 1, 2022

Street harassment restricts safe access to public spaces for victims, forcing them to alter their behaviour out of fear, anxiety, and other psychological and physical harms.

The City of Calgary is taking action to make our streets safer for everyone, including a holistic approach to end street harassment. Measures use collaboration, education, and enforcement to regulate behaviour that infringes on Calgarians' ability to enjoy public spaces and feel safe in communities.



To deter negative behaviour, support victims and make it clear that street harassment will not be tolerated in Calgary, an amendment to Public Behaviour Bylaw 54M2006 has been made.

As of June 1, 2022, it is an offence to harass another person in a public space in Calgary, carrying a fine of \$500.

How the bylaw works

The Public Behaviour Bylaw 54M2006 regulates problematic social behaviours that may have negative impacts on the enjoyment of public spaces in Calgary. The amendment restricts harassment of another person in public spaces as a violation of this bylaw.

In the bylaw, to 'harass' is defined as:

Communicating with a person in a manner that could reasonably cause offence or humiliation, including conduct, comment, or actions that refers to the person's:

- race/colour/ancestry/place of origin
- religious beliefs
- disability
- age
- marital status

- source of income
- family status
- gender/gender identity/gender expression
- sexual orientation;

and includes a sexual solicitation or advance.

Enforceable in public spaces

The bylaw amendment applies to any instance of harassment behaviour that the public has access to in Calgary. This includes businesses such as restaurants, on sidewalks, in libraries, etc.

It is not enforceable in private dwellings or places where public does not have direct access (for example, the kitchen of a restaurant or other private workplaces).

Infractions carry a fine of \$500. A higher fine is meant to act as a deterrent of the behaviour.

Every report and potential violation of this bylaw will be approached seriously and investigated.

If you are a victim of street harassment or you witness it happening to someone else, try to gather as much information as possible. Accurate and detailed information helps community peace officers significantly during investigation.



How to report

To report infractions, please call 311 or the Calgary Police Services non-emergency line at 403-268-1234. Prepare to share the nature of concern, description of the offender and the location of incident.

If you feel threatened or in danger, please contact 911 for immediate assistance.

We know experiencing street harassment is a difficult. If you would like to talk to someone, please reach out for support by calling the Distress Centre at 403-266-4357 (open 24 hours).

More information

Please visit [Calgary.ca/streetharassment](https://calgary.ca/streetharassment) for more information or call 311 to ask questions.

Let's continue to make Calgary a safe and welcoming city for everyone.