



Mercer County Crime Solvers

The Mercer County Crime Solvers Program in collaboration with the Mercer County Chiefs of Police Association has added a new tool to assist law enforcement in combating crime. Mercer County residents now have the ability to anonymously text message crime tips to CRIMES (274637) and the crime tip will be directed to law enforcement. Similar programs have been established across the country and in Canada with great success.

The crime tip is sent to a main server that is not associated with any police agency. The Internet based systems route messages through a server that encrypts the cell phone numbers before they reach the police.

Text-A-Tip

Text Tip477 and your message to CRIMES (274637) and the cell phone number will be stripped from the message before it is forwarded to the Mercer County 911 Center. A user id number will be assigned to the tip by the server. The user id is the only information sent with your tip to the 911 Center, An exception to this rule is if you have a signature attached to your texts. Your signature should be disabled before sending the tip or else it will appear in the body of the tip. Text-A-Tip provides anonymous two-way communication between the tipster and the police. This program enables police officers to contact the tipster if they need additional information to follow-up on the tip effectively.

This system can be used to report information on any crime not in progress. In progress crimes should be reported immediately to 911. The caller can remain anonymous through the 911 system.

Anonymous crime tips can be important to report information on any crime but especially so for:

- Violent Crimes-homicides, assaults, armed robberies, home invasions, domestic violence, child abuse, etc.
- Drug Crimes- illegal drug sales, drug usage
- Criminal Gang activities
- Illegal Gun possession
- Fugitives
- Parole/Probation Absconders
- Crimes on School Property

- Information on Habitual Offenders or Repeat Offenders
- Theft
- Burglary
- Any Unsolved crime

In progress crimes and situations that require an immediate police response should be reported to 911. Do not use this system as an emergency reporting tool.

Important Facts Your Text Tips Should Include

- Type of crime
- Name of people involved
- Complete addresses
- Phone numbers
- Vehicle information
- How the crime is being committed or Method of Operation.

When not to use Text-A-Tip

- Text-A-Tip should not be used to report crimes that require immediate officer response or crimes in progress.
- Text-A-Tip should not be used to report emergencies.
- Text-A-Tip should not be used to report traffic violations.
- These type of calls need to be reported to 9-1-1. Callers can request to remain anonymous.
- Text-A-Tip should not be used to report incidences that are not related to criminal activity.

Text Tip477 and your crime tip to CRIMES (274637). The keyword TIP477 is not case sensitive and it ensures that your tip will be routed to the Mercer County 911 Center