



Annoy/Harass - The Law

California Penal Code §653m states:

“Every person, who with intent to annoy, telephones or makes contact by means of an electronic communication device with another and addresses to or about the other person any obscene language or addresses to the other person any threat to inflict injury to the person or property of the person addressed or any member of his or her family, is guilty of a misdemeanor. Nothing in this subdivision shall apply to telephone calls or electronic contacts made in good faith.”

“Electronic communication device” includes items such as text messages, emails, faxes, etc.

Additional laws often associated with annoying/harassing phone calls¹

The Bane Civil Rights Act:

Civil Code section 52.1 and Penal Code section §422.6 et seq., prohibits violence or the threat of violence based on grounds such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, age disability or position in a labor dispute.

The Ralph Civil Rights Act:

Civil Code section 51.7, addresses the repugnance of racial, ethnic, religious, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, and political violence in California by providing civil and administrative remedies for those who are victims of this type of violence, or of violence directed against any particular class of persons.

¹ State of California, Office of the Attorney General

Tips if you are receiving annoying or harassing phone calls:

1. Screen your calls. If you don't recognize the number, don't answer it.
2. You have no obligation to stay on the phone, do not engage in conversation.
3. Do not tell a caller where you are or give out personal information such as your name, address, social security number, bank account number, etc.
4. Ask your phone company about privacy options for your mobile/landline phone.
5. Call CSUN Department of Police Services immediately if the caller makes any threats, **(818) 677-2111**.
6. Use this log to record specific details of annoying/harassing calls in the event you decide to notify police. This information may give valuable clues to the identity of the caller and could establish a pattern that may help identify the source or reason for the calls.

Helpful Numbers for the Department of Police Services

24-hour Emergency	9-1-1
From a cell phone	9-1-1
24-hour Non-Emergency	(818) 677-2111
From a campus phone:	x2111
Threat Assessment Unit	(818) 677-6919
Matador Patrol	(818) 677-4997
Personal Safety Escorts	(818) 677-5042/5048

California State University, Northridge Department of Police Services

Crime Prevention Unit
18111 Nordhoff St.
Northridge, Ca 91330-8282
www.csun.edu/police
Phone: 818-677-4997
Fax: 818-677-5816

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Annoying & Harassing Phone Calls



It is a violation of the laws of California to make annoying phone calls.



CSUN | DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES

A Service of the Crime Prevention Unit

