

There are specific situations in which you would want to either call 911, the police or the Sheriff. The information below can help you understand the situations in which you would want to call each one.

WHEN TO CALL ...

911

Call 911 when help from law enforcement, firefighters or medical personnel is needed **right away** for a dangerous or life-threatening emergency.

Examples:

- fire
- violent crimes
- suspicious persons or vehicles
- domestic violence
- people with weapons
- self-harm
- medical emergency

PRO TIPS:
When calling 911, stay calm, listen, and answer the questions asked to help the operator understand your situation.

Know your location. Give the address when possible, or look for landmarks, street signs and buildings. Know the name of the city or county you are in.

If you call by accident, stay on the line to tell the operator it was an accident and that there's no emergency.

non-emergency POLICE

You should call the police directly (via a local, non-emergency line) when a situation is less urgent.

Examples:

- crimes where there are no injuries and the suspects are no longer nearby
- car accidents with no injuries
- noise complaints
- questions about towed/impounded vehicles
- when information is needed about court appearances and traffic/parking tickets

SHERIFF

A Sheriff is responsible for an entire County, whereas police are within city limits. You could call the Sheriff for non-emergencies if you are in a small town or without much police presence.