

# GREAT MATE OR FAKE MATE?



## MATE CRIME



**BEING A MATE IS NOT A CRIME:  
MATE CRIME IS**



Warwickshire  
**POLICE**



West Mercia  
**POLICE**

[www.warwickshire.police.uk](http://www.warwickshire.police.uk)  
[www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)

**This booklet is for people with learning disabilities and their families, friends, supporters and carers. The booklet is also available in easy read from:**

- [www.warwickshire.police.uk/hate-crime-materials](http://www.warwickshire.police.uk/hate-crime-materials);

**and**

- [www.westmercia.police.uk/hate-crime-materials](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/hate-crime-materials)

### **What is a disability hate crime?**

A disability hate crime is any offence that is motivated by hostility or prejudice based upon a person's disability.

If someone is picking on you because of your disability then it could be a hate crime and you should call the police.

### **All of these might be a disability hate crime**

- People throwing stones at your window



- A group of people stealing your shopping
- Someone beating you up
- A neighbour calling you names when they see you
- Someone sending you abusive text messages.



### **What is mate crime?**

Mate crime is a type of hate crime. It is when someone pretends to be your friend and then takes advantage of you instead of being a proper friend. You may have met them recently or you might have known them for a long time.

A 'mate' may be a friend, family member, supporter, paid staff or another person with a disability.

A mate crime is done by someone you know.

### **All of these might be a mate crime**

- A 'mate' borrowing your mobile phone and using all the credit
- Your 'mate' coming round every time it's benefit day so you can go to the pub and spend your money

- Family members taking your money
- A 'mate' coming round once a week and going out in his car for the afternoon and charging you £20 for petrol
- Your 'mates' coming to your house and forcing you to buy the food and drink
- Your boyfriend saying you should have sex with other people for money.



### Stay safe online

- People might pretend to be your friend online
- Keep your personal details safe and private
- Never give anyone your passwords
- For more information go to: [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)



### What should you do if you are a victim of hate crime or mate crime?

- Tell lots of people
- Tell the police
- Tell your local safeguarding team
- Use a third party reporting centre like:

#### Stop Hate UK

(only operates in certain areas)

Tel: **0800 138 1625**

Email:

**[talk@stophateuk.org](mailto:talk@stophateuk.org)**

#### Voice UK

(operates a helpline: Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm)

Tel: **080 880 28686**

Email:

**[helpline@voiceuk.org.uk](mailto:helpline@voiceuk.org.uk)**

#### True Vision

You can report a Hate Crime through their website:

**[www.report-it.org.uk](http://www.report-it.org.uk)**



**CRIMESTOPPERS**  
**0800 555 111**  
Call anonymously with information about crime

## Remember

- Most of your mates are good mates and they don't want to hurt you or take advantage of you
- If you report a hate crime or mate crime you will be believed
- Your report will be taken seriously and investigated
- Don't be scared, just be aware of hate crime and mate crime.

## Information for friends, family, carers and supporters

### Who else might notice hate crime?

- Real friends
- Family
- Supporters
- Neighbours
- Anyone who knows the victim well such as a doctor or staff at their bank or local shop who might notice a change in their routine.



### How can you spot mate crime?

- Changes in routine, behaviour, appearance, finances or household (e.g. new people visiting or staying over, lots of new 'mates', lots more noise or rubbish than there normally is)
- Unexplained injuries
- Being involved in sexual acts which they have not agreed to
- Losing weight
- Not taking care of themselves and looking dirty or scruffy



- Bills not being paid
- A 'mate' who is not respectful or is bullying or undermining
- Suddenly short of money, losing their possessions or changing their will
- The person 'doing what they are told' by a 'mate'
- Showing signs of mental ill health
- Not being with the usual networks or friends/family or missing regular activities
- Goods or packages arriving at a person's house and then being collected by someone else
- The house in a mess after lots of parties.

## If you are concerned, you can report a mate crime in confidence in any of the following ways:

- In an emergency call 999
- For non-emergencies call 101
- Report online at: [www.report-it.org.uk](http://www.report-it.org.uk)
- contact CrimeStoppers on 0800 555111