## Hate Crimes

According to Massachusetts State Police and Law Enforcement, a hate crime is "any criminal act to which a bias motive is evident as a contributing factor. The Reporting Act covers bias on account of race, religion, ethnicity, handicap, gender, or sexual orientation. Hate crimes can be reported only by law enforcement agencies." Hate Crimes may include but are not limited to murder, sex offenses, aggravated and simple assault, theft, arson or any other crimes that involve bodily injury to a person